The MERRY MARVEL BULLPEN PAGE!

IT'S THE GREATEST!

YOU'LL BE THE RAGE OF THE MARVEL AGE IN YOUR OWN SWINGIN' T-SHIRT! YOU CAN'T BE WELL-DRESSED WITHOUT ONE! IF YOU'RE UNPOPULAR...IF YOU'RE UNSUCCESSFUL...THESE WON'T HELP! BUT THEY'LL MAKE YOU *ENJOY* BEING A FAILURE! ORDER YOURS TODAY! TOMORROW WE HAVE TO PAY FOR THIS AD!

YOU'VE BOMBARDED US FOR YEARS WITH DEMANDS FOR T-SHIRTS, BUT WE WAITED TILL WE COULD FIND SOME THAT WOULD REALLY BE WORTH THE DOUGH...THAT WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE GREATEST FANS IN THE WORLD, NAMELY **YOU!** AND NOW WE'VE **GOT** 'EM! JUST WAIT'LL YOU SLIP INTO THESE SNUG-FITTING, BRIGHTLY COLORED, GUARANTEED T-SHIRTS ...YOU'LL BE A SENSATION!

REMEMBER, THESE SPECTACULAR SHIRTS POSITIVELY CANNOT BE BOUGHT IN STORES! YOU'VE GOT TO GET YOURS THE *HARD* WAY, BY SENDING A COUPON! SO HURRY! BE THE FIRST IN YOUR PADDED CELL TO WEAR ONE!

MAKE OUT CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THEN SEND TO...

MARVEL T-SHIRT
625 MADISON AVE.
NEW YORK CITY N.Y. 10022

I'M SICK OF BEING A BADLY-DRESSED SLOB! MAKE ME A WELL-DRESSED SLOB! HERE'S MY $1.50, AND I CHECKED THE BOX WITH MY CORRECT SIZE... RUSH ME MY

FANTASTIC FOUR T-SHIRT

SO I CAN DRIVE THE NEIGHBORS WILD!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

(✓CHECK ONE...)

ADULT SIZES:	SMALL ☐	MEDIUM ☐	LARGE ☐
YOUTH SIZES:	SMALL ☐	MEDIUM ☐	LARGE ☐

KNOW YOUR FELLOW MERRY MARCHERS! HERE ARE 25 MORE NAMES:

Don C. Schommer, Detroit, Mich.
David Silverman, Alexandria, Va.
Franklin M. Silverman, New York, N.Y.
Curtis Shaw, Jamaica, N.Y.
Bobby Finkle, No. Hollywood, Calif.
Tommy Skomro, Falmouth, Mass.
Domingo Soto, New York, N.Y.
Ronnie Spears, Salt Lake City, Utah
Leonard Spielman, Chambusburg, Pa.
Douglas R. Squire, Corvallis, Ore.
Robert Stanton, Binghampton, N.Y.
David Studenmund, Cresskill, N.J.
Tommy A. Sykes, Crown Point, Ind.
Rick Tanselle, Lebanon, Ind.
David Studenmund, Richmond, Ind.
Shula Washington, New York, N.Y.
Gary Weichmann, Elgin, Ill.
Steve Windover, Midland, Mich.
Reid Woolford, Baltimore, Md.
Nancy F. Wroblewski, Madison, Wisc.
Marnia Zvaquits, London, Ont.
Michael H. Rothman, Oakland, Calif.
Sergio Getrajdman, Rego Park, N.Y.
Danny Goodman, New York, N.Y.
Lee Whittlesey, Norman, Okla.

SURPRISE BONUS!

TO ALL MERRY MARCHERS! WRITE YOUR OFFICIAL M.M.M.S. NUMBER AFTER YOUR NAME WHEN ORDERING YOUR T-SHIRT, AND WE'LL SEND YOU AN **EXTRA GIFT** IN THE SAME PACKAGE! WHO **SAYS** IT DOESN'T PAY TO BELONG TO THE OL' M.M.M.S.!

MAKE OUT CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: MARVEL COMICS GROUP!

M.M.M.S.
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
625 MADISON AVE.
NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. 10022

THE MMMS WANTS YOU!

FF-41

HI, GANG!
LET'S FACE IT! I'M A MARVEL MADMAN, TOO! HERE'S MY HARD-EARNED BUCK! NOW, THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS RUSH ALL THOSE NUTTY GIZMOS REAL FAST, TO.....

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ AGE ___

SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR OCCUPATION _____

'NUFF SAID!

SO! YOU DIDN'T JOIN THE M.M.M.S., YET, EH?

DON'T PANIC! THERE'S STILL TIME! WE'VE BEEN SAVING THIS COUPON JUST FOR YOU!

The MERRY MARVEL BULLPEN PAGE!

FACE FRONT!
BIG-HEARTED MARVEL OFFERS WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED... YOUR OWN WONDERFUL, WHIMSICAL, WITTICAL STATIONERY KIT! IT'S PACKED WITH EVER-LOVIN' ENVELOPES, LOONY LETTERHEADS, AND ITS OWN GREAT, FREE POP-ART PORTFOLIO! YOU'VE GOTTA GET ONE... THE DIZZY DRAWINGS ALONE ARE WORTH THE PRICE! AND WAIT'LL YOU SEE THE BATTY BONUS AUTOGRAPH PAGE, SIGNED BY ALMOST EVERY ONE OF OUR COSTUMED KOOKS... IT'S THE LIVIN' END!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS
OFFICIAL SWINGIN' STATIONERY
ONLY $1.00 FOR ALL THIS! WHICH IS WHY WE'LL NEVER BE RICH!
SUITABLE FOR ALL SOCIAL CORRESPONDENCE AND INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

and, WE'VE STILL GOT A FEW (MILLION, THAT IS!) FABULOUS
T-SHIRTS
LEFT FOR ANY FRANTIC FAN WHO WANTS TO BE A FAR-OUT FASHION LEADER! THEY'RE INSANE, INEXPENSIVE AND INCREDIBLY IN! SEND FOR YOURS NOW!
$1.50
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

KNOW YOUR FELLOW MERRY MARCHERS! HERE ARE 25 MORE NAMES:

Danny Walsh, Baltimore, Md.	Tommy Peno, Dorchester, Mass.	Jim Cohn, Skyesville, Md.
Gary Brock, Dayton, Ohio	John Barone, Kansas City, Mo.	Rickey Tuttle, Mesquite, Texas
Dan Hollt, Springfield, Mo.	Gary Ayerback, Baltimore, Md.	David Black, Austin, Texas
Karl M. Wait, Hays, Kansas	Darrel J. Douglas, Pasadena, Texas	Billy Orcutt, Natrona Heights, Pa.
Edward Machnik, Meriden, Conn.	Kenneth Hamel, Leivistom, Me.	Richard Simcox, Bellaire, New York
Joey Jones, Ashland, Va.	Joseph J. Wehrle, Jr., Punxsutawney, Pa.	Richard Kashmar, Youngstown, Ohio
James Puhr, Mandan, N. D.	Paul Gollis, Newport, R. I.	Albert F. Pavis, N. Haven, Conn.
David McDaniel, Baltimore, Md.	Arthur Sperling, Middletown, R. I.	Hank Simmons, Hoensboro, Ark.
		Leonard Womack, Richmond, Va.

MAKE OUT CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: MARVEL COMICS GROUP.

THEN SEND TO: MARVEL COMICS GROUP
625 MADISON AVE.
NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. 10022

S-14

OKAY, I'M HOOKED! YOU GUYS FINALLY REACHED ME! NOW HERE'S WHAT I WANT:

CHECK ONE: ☐ STATIONERY KIT $1.00 EA. ☐ T-SHIRT $1.50 EA.

PLEASE ADD 15¢ FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

FOR SPIDER-MAN T-SHIRT CHECK SIZE ✓

ADULT SIZES: SMALL ☐ MEDIUM ☐ LARGE ☐

YOUTH SIZES: SMALL ☐ MEDIUM ☐ LARGE ☐

AND, LEST WE FORGET, HERE'S WHAT STARTED THE WHOLE BIT...!

MAKE OUT CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: MARVEL COMICS GROUP

M.M.M.S.
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
625 MADISON AVE.
NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. 10022

S-14

HI, GANG! LET'S FACE IT! I'M A MARVEL MADMAN, TOO! HERE'S MY HARD-EARNED BUCK! NOW, THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS RUSH ALL THOSE NUTTY GIZMOS REAL FAST, TR-

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ AGE _____

SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR OCCUPATION _____

'NUFF SAID!

MERRY MARCHERS! WRITE YOUR OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER ON EITHER COUPON AND WE'LL SEND YOU A BATTY BONUS GIFT WITH YOUR ORDER!

IF YOU DON'T WANNA CUT UP OUR CLASSY MAG, SEND US A COUPON FACSIMILE!

The MERRY MARVEL BULLPEN PAGE!

THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS GOING "T-SHIRT WILD", AND IF YOU'VE ALREADY RECEIVED *YOURS*, YOU'LL KNOW WHY! THEY'RE BOLD, BRIGHT, AND BEAUTIFUL—AND EXCLUSIVELY *MARVEL!* — THEY'RE *SO IN* THAT EVEN THE FEW REMAINING "BRAND ECHH" FANS HAVE BEEN ORDERING THEM LIKE CRAZY! SO, IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE IT YET, SEND FOR YOURS *NOW!* YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN COMPANY WILL DROP IN!

$1.50

AND, WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, REMEMBER TO TREAT YOURSELF TO A DECORATOR-APPROVED, JAM-PACKED MARVEL *STATIONERY KIT!* YOU'LL RECEIVE A HANDSOME ILLUSTRATED PORTFOLIO, FILLED WITH THE GREATEST POP-ART LETTERHEADS AND ENVELOPES YOU'VE EVER MARVELED AT!

THE DIZZY DRAWINGS BY OUR MARVEL MASTERS, AND THE AUTOGRAPHS OF OUR COSTUMED CUT-UPS ON THE BACK OF THE PORTFOLIO, ARE ALMOST WORTH THE RIDICULOUS PRICE ALONE! WE KID THEE NOT!

M.M.M.S. MEMBERS: WRITE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER AFTER YOUR NAME ON THE COUPON AND YOU'LL RECEIVE A FREE BONUS GIFT WITH YOUR ORDER!

IF YOU DON'T WANNA TEAR THIS PAGE, WE'LL ACCEPT A COPY OF OUR COUPON — BECAUSE WE LOVE YA!

MAKE OUT CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: **MARVEL COMICS GROUP**
DEPT. M-1
625 MADISON AVE.
NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. 10022

S-23

OKAY, I'M HOOKED! YOU GUYS FINALLY REACHED ME! NOW HERE'S WHAT I WANT:

☐ STATIONERY KIT $1.00 ☐ SPIDER-MAN T-SHIRT $1.50

PLEASE ADD 15¢ PER ITEM FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

FOR *T-SHIRTS* CHECK SIZE ✓

ADULT SIZES: SMALL ☐ MEDIUM ☐ LARGE ☐

YOUTH SIZES: SMALL ☐ MEDIUM ☐ LARGE ☐

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS!

FACE FRONT! Here's a whole kaboodle of news and gossip straight from your bullpen to you!

BIG NEWS! An old favorite of yours, Jolly JOE SINNOTT has rejoined our mighty Marvel team! He'll be inking the F.F. regularly, working on "Agent of Shield," and doing as many other features as we can straddle him with! (Remember his great inking job on F.F. #5? Dyed-in-the-wool Marvelites are still drooling over it!)

Everybody's favorite guessing game these days is trying to figure out the real identity of the "Sub-Mariner's" powerful penciller, ADAM AUSTIN! As most of you have guessed, Adam Austin is only a nom de plume, and one of these days we'll reveal his real name to you—if we don't forget it before then!

Did you know that our bullpen ramrod, Smilin' STAN LEE, also authors MONSTERS UNLIMITED as well as YOU DON'T SAY! Both are slick paper photo-gag magazines, and Stan the Man seems to have the magic touch—both of those humor sensations seem to sell out as fast as our own Marvel masterpieces—and that's sayin' something!

Everybody's been clamoring for a sample of JACK (King) KIRBY'S inking as well as his pencilling. So, if you'll remind us next spring, we'll try to get him to pencil and ink a special pin-up page for one of next year's Annuals! Of course, it'll mean our buying him a brush, but no sacrifice is too great to make for you Marvel madmen!

How do you like the layout of this page, gang? Pretty jazzy, eh? Any comments, suggestions or (yulp) criticisms? Grab a sheet of your swingin' stationery and let us know! We're waiting to hear from you!

It's our next Marvel mail order bombshell! You've been demanding it for months, so we're frantically producing a zillion of 'em right now! Next ish we'll let the cat out of the bag and clue you in, but till then send us your guesses, and we'll try to remember you when our next no-prize academy award time rolls around! 'Nuff said!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #45: At last! The secret of Medusa's mysterious lost race! More about the grotesque Gorgon! And wait'll you see who the Torch meets!

AVENGERS #22: What happens to a world-famous fighting team after they've suffered their first major defeat? This one is a real shocker!

X-MEN #14: See the human race up in arms against the X-Men, as the supernatural "Sentinels" make their first fantastic appearance!

DAREDEVIL #10: A real collector's item! On a dare, Stan let Wally Wood write this one, and it's the most off-beat mystery in years! Wait'll you see the far-out supervillains and the panicky plot twists! Sure to be talked-about everywhere!

THOR #122: Having battled Thor to a standstill, the Absorbing Man now dares to attack Odin himself! Also, learn the secret of the hooded mystery man!

STRANGE #139: Fury a prisoner of Hydra! Earth menaced by a betatron bomb! And then—a girl steps in! Plus: Dr. Strange's startling battle with Baron Mordo!

SUSPENSE #72: The most unexpected villain of all poses a daringly different threat to Iron Man, while Captain America faces the macabre menace of "The Sleeper"!

ASTONISH #74: The surprise of the season! Why does Namor give up his quest? And, wait'll you see what happens to the Leader when the Hulk returns to earth!

SGT. FURY #24: This is the one you've been waiting for! The Howlers fly to the U.S.A. for a furlough—but they get a lot more than they bargained for! Sensational!

LET'S MEET 25 MORE M.M.M.S. MEMBERS:

Jeff Hall, Memphis, Tenn.
Phillip Todd, Detroit, Mich.
Robert Wolowiec, Chicago, Ill.
Kevin Knupp, Westmoreland, N.Y.
Michael Pendleton, Indianapolis, Ind.
Jeffery Schantz, Emmans, Pa.
Bill Kneisel, Brooklyn, N.Y.
John Dubois, Albuquerque, N. Mex.
George Balda, Port Jefferson, N.Y.
R. Douglas Snyder, Cincinnati, Ohio
J. Grecco, Baltimore, Md.
Harvey Freed, Detroit, Mich.
Bob Szymanski, Monte Vista, Colo.
Clifford Van Gulder, Superior, Wisc.
Jeff Boggess, Ft. Worth, Texas
Danny Emerick, Athens, Ga.
Louis Mougin, Kermit, Texas
Bill Schultz, Hammond, Ind.
Butch Kasper, Hammond, Ind.
Ricky Ware, Milwaukee, Wisc.
Bill Chalfant, Midland, Texas
Edward Ryan, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Daniel Ottaviano, Bronx, N.Y.
Robert Rodriguez, Chicago, Ill.
Geary Chapoff, San Francisco, Calif.

NOTE: If you don't want to cut up this classy mag, you can send us a copy of our coupon!

Be the rage of the Marvel Age in a swingin' T-Shirt! Order yours today! Tomorrow we may keep 'em for ourselves!

Treat yourself to a Marvel Stationery Kit! It's packed with envelopes, letterheads, and autographs of your frantic favorites.

Send check or money order to:
MARVEL COMICS GROUP DEPT. MO
625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022

Please add 15¢ per item for postage and handling

Check one: ☐ T-Shirt: $1.50 each ☐ Stationery Kit: $1.00 each

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____

For SPIDER-MAN T-SHIRT, CHECK SIZE ✓

ADULT SIZES: Small ☐ Med. ☐ Large ☐

YOUTH SIZES: Small ☐ Med. ☐ Large ☐

5 3¢

MARCHERS: Write your membership number on coupon for a bonus gift with each order!

THE M.M.M.S. WANTS YOU!

Make out check or money order for $1.00 to:
M.M.M.S. MARVEL COMICS GROUP
625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Hi Gang! Let's face it, I'm a Marvel Madman too! Here's my hard earned buck! Rush all your nutty gizmos to . . .

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Age _____

School, College or Occupation:

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS!

MORE NUTTY NEWS AND NOTES FROM ONE MARVEL MADMAN TO ANOTHER!

"WE GOOFED AGAIN! DEPARTMENT"— Remember how we tried to change our name to Marvel Pop-Art Productions? Well, although some of you went along with us, we never realized how many thousands were intensely loyal to the name Marvel Comics! Your mail, phone calls, and telegrams bowled us over! So, once again we fall on our red faces—and, from now on, we're the Marvel Comics Group once more—SO BE IT!

★★★

SCOOP! It's artist-switching time again! Dashing DON HECK takes over the pencilling chores on Agent of Shield for this ish; after which JACK KIRBY, the king himself, will carry on in following issues! Meanwhile, artistic ADAM AUSTIN tries his hand at IRON MAN this month, leaving DON more time to concentrate on some of the greatest AVENGERS epics of all! And wait'll you see which strip our newest MYSTERY ARTIST will soon be doing! (Who's He? You'll find out!) Hoo-Boy!

★★★

THE SEASON'S BIGGEST SURPRISE! Here's the best-kept secret of the year! We have a brand new 25¢ giant-sized quarterly sensation on sale this month! It's called MARVEL COLLECTOR'S ITEM CLASSICS, and it'll be like having a fabulous Annual four times a year! Our first ish, on sale now, features the full-length thrillers you have most requested from the earliest days of the FANTASTIC FOUR, SPIDEY, ANT MAN, and TALES OF ASGARD! This is your chance to build up a priceless library of Marvel masterworks! 'Nuff said!

"DIDJA KNOW? DEPARTMENT" — Didja know that SOL BRODSKY, Stan's talented, ever-popular production chief, is a crackerjack penciller and inker in his own right? But, due to Marvel's backbreaking schedule, the poor guy hardly has time to write his own name these days! But, maybe later on . . . Didja know that HENRY PYM makes a brief and surprising guest appearance in one of our mags this month? (Just to show we haven't forgotten about him.) Which one? Aw, that would be telling! Didja know that fabulous FLO STEINBERG, our Gal Friday, has been winning popularity polls in colleges all over the country? But they can't have her! We saw her first! And, didja know that our peerless publisher, merry MARTY GOODMAN, is not only one of the greatest guys in the biz (any biz!) but also one of the nation's top amateur golfers! (And, despite what you might have heard, it's not true that Stan caddies for him on his day off!)

★★★

THE WRAP-UP! Fellow Marvelites are always asking us which is our best selling title, so we might as well level with you right now. We can't decide! Each and every one of our super-hero mags, including SGT. FURY, hits the sales jackpot! We don't know if there's ever been a success story like this in the history of publishing before—and we're not sure exactly what it is that we're doing right—but this you can bet on—we're not gonna stop! (How can we? They won't let us take a day off!) Gotta go now—we just heard that someone forgot to face front! See ya next ish!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now

SPIDER-MAN #32: You'll flip when you learn the true identity of the Master Planner, and when you see a fighting-mad Spidey on the rampage as never before! Packed with surprises, as usual!

AVENGERS #23: Has Captain America broken away for good? See what happens when the mighty Avengers face a different foe, with totally different powers! It's sheer dynamite!

X-MEN #15: "Prisoners of the Master Mold" will show you better than any words of ours why we HAD to make this power-packed mag a monthly! Never have the desperate teenagers fought more gloriously! And talk about ACTION—!!

DAREDEVIL #11: The exploits of the Man Without Fear are now also published monthly, and even that may not be enough for you after you've thrilled to "A Time To Unmask!" Warning—the ending will leave you breathless!

THOR #123: The story you never expected to see! Odin himself is attacked, while a universe trembles! And don't dare miss seeing what happens to Loki—only Marvel would dare!

SUSPENSE #73: If Adam Austin's new artwork on Iron Man isn't enough, Captain America wants you with him when the second Sleeper awakes! Don't let ol' Cap down, hear?

STRANGE TALES #140: Agent of Shield features "The End of Hydra!" Dr. Strange presents "The Pincers of Power!" We must be nuts to only charge 12¢!

ASTONISH #75: Sub-Mariner finishes his quest, while the Hulk finally finds a trap that his limitless strength cannot break! It'll really grab you!

SGT. FURY #25: This one is packed with surprises! You'll meet one of Captain America's old enemies as Fury faces a danger different from any he's ever known! You'll never forget "Every Man My Enemy!"

☆☆☆

THE MYSTERY IS SOLVED!

Remember when we asked you to guess what was in the mysterious mailing tube last ish? Well, here's the answer! Marvel's newest mail order miracle! A LIFE-SIZE, FULL-COLOR SPIDEY PIN-UP! And, as if this isn't enough, we have dozens of OTHER life-size pin-ups in preparation right now!

You'll find the coupon for your 6-foot high pin-up elsewhere in this ish! And we didn't just put it there for show! Dig?

LET'S MEET 25 MORE M.M.M.S. MEMBERS:

Tom Murray University City, Mo.	James M. Verhet Whittier, Calif.
Fred Cleaver Tonganoxie, Kansas	Kathy Kapusta New Canaan, Conn.
Victor Andrus Woodside, New York	Bob Wallace Nashua, N. H.
Len Wein Levittown, New York	Danny Conley Kenton, Ohio
Thomas L. Smith Milwaukee, Wisc.	Philip Cardone Bronx, New York
John G. Fitzgerald Albany, New York	George M. Smith, Jr. Greenville, S. C.
Steve Kawashima Los Angeles, Calif.	Jerry G. Balis Warren, Mich.
Stewart Turner Arlington, N. J.	Lawrence Walker Chicago, Ill.
Mike Dawson Satellite Beach, Fla.	Mike L. Lock Oklahoma City, Okla.
Calvin Mandel Los Angeles, Calif.	Bill Haighbours Thre Rivers, Mich.
Allen Fuqua Kansas City, Mo.	Scott Nielson Sandy, Utah
Steve Garner Chicago, Ill.	Tommy Gilbert Anton, Texas
	Allen F. Fumbanks, Jr. Chicago, Ill.

THE M.M.M.S. WANTS YOU!

Make out check or money order for $1.00 to:
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625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Hi Gang! Let's face it, I'm a Marvel Madman too! Here's my hard earned buck! Rush all your nutty gizmos to . . .

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Age_____

School, College or Occupation:

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS!

ANOTHER MIGHTY MARVEL HOT-LINE REPORT FEATURING EARTH-SHAKING ITEMS OF MONUMENTAL INCONSEQUENCE!

LET'S BE SERIOUS DEPARTMENT: Millions of our fans (well, hundreds, anyway!) (well, actually, one of the guys in the mail room!) have demanded to know why mixed-up Marvel included so many reprints in this year's Annuals? Here's the Honest-to-Aunt-Petunia answer: We had TWO powerful reasons—#1: Many of our ravin' readers have just joined us recently, thereby missing so many of our earlier masterworks. The reprints in our adorable Annuals give them a chance to complete their can't-live-without-'em collections—as does our new quarterly publication MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS! #2: Because of our frankly backbreaking schedule each month, we simply no longer have the TIME to do the double-length yarns we featured in our earlier Annuals! So, rather than eliminate these once-yearly spectaculars, we're able to continue them only by combining the old with the new. Contrary to what some Brand Echh subversives have been hinting, it isn't because we're trying to save a few sheckels—we can easily afford to spend the DOUGH—but we can't afford the additional TIME without causing our regular monthly mags to suffer! (Anyway, Brand Echh should talk! THEIR Annuals are ALL reprint!—Nyahhh!) So there you have it! We could have thought up a much better excuse if we wanted to put you on—but, although we may be corny, capricious, and confused, we've never been less than honest with you! And now, it's trivia time again—!

• • •

HOW ABOUT THAT! DEPARTMENT: You'll see the name ROY THOMAS popping up here and there in our ever-lovin' editions. Roy's a fan who's made it! Although employed as a school teacher in St. Louis (his subject was English!), Roy never lost his love for comic mags—Marvels, to be exact! So, after a lot of correspondence back and forth, we decided it would be cheaper to hire him for the bullpen than to keep shelling out money for those air-mail stamps! Now that Roy's aboard, we're betting our syntax will be sensational, and there won't be a split infinitive for miles around!

• • •

STRICTLY PERSONAL: A few fans who must have sent their sensahumor on vacation have written to ask us why we always insult Adorable ARTIE SIMEK and Swingin' SAMMY ROSEN on our krazy kredits! So, we wanna state here and now that we LOVE those two talented, hard-working, dependable letterers of ours! Those little squibs we write about them are strictly all in fun! We think they're the greatest! (But, if they forget to capitalize Stan's name once more—watch out!)

• • •

DEPARTMENT OF UTTER CONFUSION: We wanted to tell you all about the new artists we've hired, and the new lineup of pencillers and inkers for our various strips, but we're still in the process of switching everything around, so it'll haveta wait till next month! But, we think we have some of the most sensational announcements of the season in store for you! Just wait'n see! Of course, one thing we CAN mention is the fact that Jolly JOE SINNOTT will be our permanent F.F. inker from now on! In our book, he's the best there is, and then some! For those of you who've been wondering how we could possibly improve "the world's greatest comic mag"—you've got your answer!

• • •

DIDJA KNOW? DEPARTMENT: DIDJA KNOW that MARVEL COMICS is just a part of a huge publishing empire which also produces movie magazines, men's magazines, crossword puzzle books, and hosts of other publications, including the two now-famous ones written by our leader: MONSTERS UNLIMITED, and YOU DON'T SAY! (By the way, MONSTERS UNLIMITED has become such a swingin' success that it's now published on a regular basis, four times a year! Congratulations, Stan!) DIDJA KNOW that most of our amazin' artists work at home and sometimes don't visit the bullpen more often than once a month! (In fact, last time we saw Darlin' DICK AYERS, who lives in Westchester, we almost didn't recognize him!) And JACK "KING" KIRBY drops in, loaded down with a new mess of masterpieces, once a week. Poor Jack! He's so absent-minded that he usually goes home with someone else's hat, portfolio, or train ticket! Stan wanted to put a label around his neck reading: "If found, please return to the merry Marvel bullpen!" but he couldn't—Jack lost the label!

LET'S MEET 25 MORE M.M.M.S. MEMBERS:

Frank Gerencer, Phillipsburg, N. J.
David Edwards, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
Steve Sander, Madison, Tenn.
John Pepi, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Howard Battersby, Chicago, Ill.
Ronald J. Wieck, New York, N. Y.
Frank H. Mowrey, Clinton, Tenn.
Danny Kusmetzky, Overland Park, Kan.
Norman McLinden, Jr., Bellingham, Mass.
Charles Pauley, San Francisco, Calif.
Aric Mills, San Francisco, Calif.
Ricky Wesp, Buffalo, N. Y.
James Casler, Syracuse, N. Y.
Mary Ann Sheldon, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.
Joe Connelly, Rochester, N. Y.
George Gudmundsen, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Roderick K. Robinson, Baltimore, Md.
Holly Ingraham, San Pedro, Calif.
Michael G. Rome, Indianapolis, Ind.
John Corr, Philadelphia, Pa.
Robert Sena, Gloversville, N. Y.
Don Haynes, Peoria, Ill.
Danny Pringle, Rosebush, Mich.
Mike Hembree, Spartanburg, S. C.
Ricky Ryans, San Lorenzo, Calif.

THE WRAP-UP! Don't forget to write and tell us what items you'd like to see featured on this page in future issues. And now, until we meet again, take good care of yourself—even if we don't tell you often enough, we're nothing without you!

• • •

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now

FANTASTIC FOUR #46: At last! The secret of the Great Refuge, where dwell the incredible Inhumans! If you read no other magazine this season, you must not miss this one!

AVENGERS #24: Trapped in the far distant future, fighting one of the most powerful foes in the universe, with all odds against them, the mighty Avengers prove how powerful they really are!

X-MEN #16: Thrill to the conclusion of the startling battle against the Sentinels—given new glory and luster by some of the finest pencilling and inking of the current season!

DAREDEVIL #12: Not one villain, but two! Or, is our second super-powered guest star really a villain? For all the color and spectacle which have made Marvel a byword, this is for you!

THOR #124: Another offbeat, unexpected shocker featuring the golden immortal who has taken the entire comics magazine-reading world by storm! From Asgard to earth, the thrills never stop!

STRANGE TALES #141: The start of a new life-and-death struggle for Nick Fury, Agent of Shield, and the end of the most fantastic battle of the Season between Dr. Strange and Dormammu!

ASTONISH #76: One of the biggest surprises in Marveldom awaits you in the Sub-Mariner epic this ish! And, Namor finally comes to the surface world! As for the Hulk—merely greater than ever! (Just wait'll you see his new super-foe!)

SUSPENSE #74: The fate of Happy Hogan will leave you breathless as Iron Man reaches new heights of greatness! And, Captain America has only a few seconds left to save the whole cockeyed world!

SGT. FURY #26: Darlin' Dum Dum Dugan almost steals the whole show this time, in one of the whackiest, most wonderful war tales of all! If a whole kaboodle of new characters is what you want—you've got 'em!

THE M.M.M.S. WANTS YOU!

Make out check or money order for $1.00 to:
M.M.M.S. MARVEL COMICS GROUP
625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Hi Gang! Let's face it, I'm a Marvel Madman too! Here's my hard earned buck! Rush all your nutty gizmos to...

Name_____
Address_____
City_____ Zip_____ State_____
Age____

School, College or Occupation:

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS!

THE LATEST GOSSIP, GAGS, AND GIZMOS FROM YOUR BULLPEN TO YOU!

HOW ABOUT THAT! DEPARTMENT: Have you noticed the way Brands X, Y, and Z have been knocking themselves out trying to imitate the now-famous Marvel style? All of a sudden, we find watered-down versions of our own pulsating plots and devastating dialogue all over the place! But we're going to do something that's never been done before! This should finally prove how big-hearted we really are! We're gonna make it EASY for those panicky pussycats! To save them the trouble of trying to imitate our inimitable style, we're thinking of selling them some of our old scripts! Then, they could be sure they finally have the same kind of stories as mighty Marvel! We figure they owe it to whatever readers they have left! (Naturally we're only kidding, but we'll bet you anything that some clown from some other company drops us a line asking the price of those old yarns!)

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DIDJA KNOW? DEPARTMENT: Didja know the real reason we changed the AVENGERS lineup? Here it is, honest injun! Iron Man, Thor, and Giant-Man were all starring in their own mags. After a while, it didn't seem right to have one of them captured in Transylvania in his own mag, while he might be takin' in the Late Show on TV in the AVENGERS! The truth is, it seemed to kill all the realism—all the immediacy of both strips! In fact, that's why we took the Torch and bashful Benjamin out of STRANGE TALES. It's easier to keep track of all our costumed cuties when they're in one mag at a time—except for occasional guest shots, of course! So that's it! If you can make heads or tales out of Stan's long-winded explanation, consider yourself no-prized!

• • •

DEPARTMENT OF UTTER CONFUSION: We wanted to tell you which artists will do what strips this month, but the situation is more mixed-up than ever! However, we can safely mention one change which we think you'll flip over—jaunty JOHNNY ROMITA will do the Hulk in ASTONISH #77 (now on sale!), as well as continuing the breathtaking depiction of Daredevil in the masterful mag of the same name! Meanwhile, it looks as though ADAM AUSTIN will stay with Iron Man for a while—he's doing too great a job to stop! Have you noticed more and more of darlin' DICK AYERS' inking popping up in our mags? We suspect he's jealous of all the fuss we've been making of jolly JOEY SINNOTT'S fabulous work on the FANTASTIC FOUR, and he wants to get into the act himself! As for us, we're happy about the whole thing. We've been boosters of Dick's inking for as long as we can remember!

• • •

STRICTLY PERSONAL: It isn't generally known, but many of our merry Marvel artists are also talented story men in their own right! For example, all Stan has to do with the pro's like JACK "KING" KIRBY, dazzling DON HECK, and darlin' DICK AYERS is give them the germ of an idea, and they make up all the details as they go along, drawing and plotting out the story. Then, our leader simply takes the finished drawings and adds all the dialogue and captions! Sounds complicated? Maybe it is, but it's another reason why no one else can bring you that old Marvel magic!—By the way, one bullpen buddy you ought to know is genial JOHNNY HAYES, our beaming business manager and circulation director! Johnny's the gent who works night and day making sure our mags are sold throughout the free world! And, if you think only artists and writers are sporty souls, you should see the jazzy 2x2 fire-engine-red Mustang fastback that joyful John zips to work in!

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THE WRAP-UP: For those of you who were Marvel maniacs in the old days when we featured fantasy mags about the nuttiest assortment of aliens, monsters, and cavortin' kooks you ever saw . . . and, for those of you who missed those nutty, nifty, nostalgic yarns . . . we've got a thrilling surprise! Just for the fun of it—just so we can see what the work of our favorite artists looked like years ago—just so we can read some of those famous old fantasy classics Stan was batting out by the dozens before the Marvel Age—in other words, just for old times' sake, we're adding a new title to our line-up of hits—FANTASY MASTERPIECES! The great first ish is on sale right now, and you've just GOT to get it! It'll be published bi-monthly, and each ish is certain to become a treasured collectors' item minutes after it's off the press! It's only 12¢ — jam-packed with memories — a real Marvel memento publication—just for YOU! And, as usual, we'll be waiting with bated breath to learn how you like it! So let us know real soon, hear? See you next month!

LET'S MEET 26 MORE M.M.M.S. MEMBERS:

William McGee Springfield, Mass.	Adrian Chang Honolulu, Hawaii
Danny Clermont North Adams, Mass.	Steven Rodriguez Orangeburg, New York
Phil Leibfred Bronxville, New York	Richard Dooley Lexington, Mass.
Bill O'Neil Casagrande, Arizona	James Thomas Sharon, Penna.
Robert Golay West Nyack, New York	Malcom G. Manford Milton, Ontario
Joseph Fernandez Albany, New York	Steve Jagodzinski Toledo, Ohio
Lucy Fernandez Albany, New York	Ken Pampu Ontario, Canada
Gerald Tichy Shelton, Conn.	Steven Adler New York, New York
Brian Pickrell Monterey, California	Donald Bann Philadelphia, Penna.
John Lamathe Leominster, Mass.	Douglas Southgate Seaforth, Ontario, Canada
Steven Doyle Portland, Maine	Scott Gillet New Rochelle, New York
Miss Margaret Murray Fitchburg, Mass.	Ray Cardinal San Francisco, California
Robert Golfin Brooklyn, New York	Joseph Saetta Port Reading, New Jersey

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now

SPIDER-MAN #34: Kraven the Hunter returns to challenge Spidey to the deadliest game of all—a hunt with no quarter asked or given! It's just the type of tale you dig!

AVENGERS #25: This one has everything! One of the world's greatest fighting teams meets the menace of the world's most dangerous villain — and they can't fight back!

X-MEN #17: It looks as if this is Marvel's month to feature villains! But, the X-Men do it the hard way! You'll meet the last super-foe you ever expected to see in this one!

DAREDEVIL #13: The plot thickens! It seems there is more to the Plunderer than we thought last ish! And we're also going to learn a lot more about Ka-Zar! Oh yes, Daredevil's in this one, too!

THOR #125: All we need to tell you is that this landmark issue features Hercules — and a host of new, startling developments! It's sheer dynamite from start to finish!

STRANGE TALES #142: Once again Shield is threatened with destruction, but don't worry — Fury's on the job! As for Dr. Strange, we hope Steve Ditko can save him —poor Stan doesn't know how!

SUSPENSE #75: If you think Iron Man was in trouble before, wait'll you read this one! And you're sure to flip over Cap's great new foe: the bombastic Batroc!

ASTONISH #77: At last the secret is out! Major Talbot learns who the Hulk really is! You'll never forget this one! And wait'll you see who Sub-Mariner meets, up on earth's surface!

SGT. FURY #27: The titanic tale that rips away the veil of secrecy and reveals, for the very first time, the truth behind the eye patch Nick Fury wears today! A sizzler!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #1: The greatest collection of Golden Age fantasy you've ever seen! You'll thrill to the early work of your favorite artists!

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Address_____
City _____ ZIP_____ State_____
Age____

School, College or Occupation:

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS!

MORE MIRTHFUL, MONUMENTAL, MIND-STAGGERING MEMORANDA FROM YOUR MARVEL MADMEN!

HOW ABOUT THAT! Have you noticed how everybody seems to be talking about Marvel lately? Ol' smilin' Stan was interviewed on the Tony Marvin radio program "The World Today" (Mutual Network) in the early part of October, and has a number of other radio interviews scheduled as well. The Sept. '65 ish of ESQUIRE included the Hulk and Spidey among the 25 people who count most on campus! Other national mags, too numerous to mention here, have also been spreading the word about Marvel, while many collegiate publications (including U.C.L.A.'s PELICAN) have asked for permission to do write-ups about the merry Marvel craze which is sweeping fandom! We kinda thought you madcap Marvelites would like to know the company you're in!

DIDJA KNOW? Didja know that you serious collectors can build a complete file of all our early super-hero stories by not missing an ish of the sensational giant-sized 25¢ MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS, on sale every three months! (Of course, it'll take a few centuries for us to reprint ALL our early epics in this manner, but think of the fun you'll have growing old with Marvel!)—Didja know our mail has been running a zillion to one in FAVOR of continued stories, although we've been printing more of the negative reactions because they're usually more provocative!—Didja know that lots of Marvelites have been coloring the drawings of our cavortin' characters which appear on your Marvel stationery kits, and they look terrif that way! Just a suggestion, pussycat!—Didja know that the first Dr. Strange to appear in the wonderful world of Marvel was actually a VILLAIN! He was featured in one of the earliest Iron Man yarns. (And don't embarrass us by asking which ish — naturally we've forgotten!)

STRICTLY PERSONAL! STAN G., our curly-haired, mustachioed demon artist/colorist has just drawn an ad for one of the biggest soft-drink companies. (Its initials are No-Cal!) If you're in the Times Square area, you can see it on the biggest billboard in sight. Otherwise, you'll have to wait till it gets to your neck of the woods. But, you can't fail to recognize it—the gals look like the dolls from the MILLIE THE MODEL mag—which Stan draws, natch! . . . How many of you know that MICKEY SPILLANE, the world-famous author of the MIKE HAMMER series, used to scribble scripts for the Marvel bullpen? In fact, Mike once advised Stan to take a comic script, jazz it up just a bit, and he'd end up with a swingin' novel! Well, maybe one of these days—! . . . Remember ol' BILL EVERETT, the Golden Age great who created SUB-MARINER, and who also did the first ish of DAREDEVIL? Bill is hankering to rejoin the bullpen again, on a permanent basis, and we're all hoping he will! His style is as exciting as KIRBY's, as different as DITKO's, and as unforgettable as AUSTIN's! More about Bill later. . . . ROY THOMAS, our newest Marvel maniac, is probably the only editorial-staffer who can read hieroglyphics! (Although it's been so long since he tried, that he now claims he can just barely remember the diff between an owl and an ibis!) Next week we're gonna try him on Sanskrit! (Although who could tell if he did it right or not?)

DEPARTMENT OF UTTER CONFUSION! As most of you know, our Marvel masterworks are sold in practically every part of the free world! Whether you live in South Africa or Siam, Paris or Portugal, you've no excuse for missing an ish! (And we're checking on you every minute!) But, did you know how each country changes the various names in each mag? For instance—Marvelmania has been sweeping most of Mexico these days. But, in translating our yarns into Spanish, some of our syncopated super-heroes are re-christened in this way: The HULK becomes La MOLE (two syllables, meaning bulk, or mass)! The THING finds himself called EL COLOSO (the colossal one)! And DAREDEVIL is translated as EL DYNAMO! (This incredible information is unconditionally guaranteed to do you absolutely no good whatsoever!) Wait! There's more! Guess what DR. STRANGE is known as, south of the border? Aw, someone must have told you! How'd you know it was DR. CENTELLA (Dr. Spark!)? Anyway, our tantalizin' titles are sold thruout Latin America with one exception—the bearded one has banned all comic books in Cuba as subversive literature! That's probably the nicest compliment we've had all year!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Mike Wilson Oakwood, Ill.	Roy Belill Saginaw, Michigan
Otis Harlan, Jr. Chicago, Ill.	Keith Bayard Brevard, North Carolina
Zacharey B. Copper Springfield, Ohio	Roy Folsom Cambridge, Mass.
Kenny Crowe Birmingham, Alabama	Chris Veremakis Stamford, Conn.
James Ries, Jr. E. Orange, New Jersey	Scott Eagle Burger Middleton, Wisconsin
Ray Clutter Troy, Ohio	Steven Mell Black Eagle, Montana
Steven Tuegel Dubuque, Iowa	Jim Solonsky Lindenhurst, New York
Miss Maridee Artling Traverse City, Michigan	Ricky Walsh Westchester, Ill.
Alex Civinski Yonkers, New York	Donald Scott Manitoba, Canada
Andrew Hollan Houston, Texas	Gordon Scott Manitoba, Canada
Marvin Rosskope Baltimore, Md.	Larry Bowler Stamford, Conn.
John Hall Middleboro, Mass.	Vincent Famia Meriden, Conn.
Charles Ortiz New York, New York	Jerry O'Leary New Rochelle, New York

THE WRAP-UP! Since we've just about run out of room, we'll leave you now with these imperishable words of Irving Forbush: "Maybe a Marvel mag isn't as edifying as the complete works of Shakespeare, but it's a lot easier to carry! So, in the name of erudition, MAKE MINE MARVEL!" 'Nuff said, aficionado!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #49: Galactus! The Silver Surfer! The Watcher! The Thing, Torch, Reed, and Sue! Plus action, action, action! It'll sell out in minutes! So go, frantic one!

THE AVENGERS #26: This one is for all those who've been asking what's happened to Giant-Man and the wonderful Wasp! Need we say more?

X-MEN #18: Wanna see where Magneto has been, and how he got back? Wanna see the weakest X-Man fight the strongest foe of all? This is for YOU!

DAREDEVIL #14: This one has everything! Foggy and Karen return! Crisis in the courtroom! The world in danger! The Plunderer strikes! Ka-Zar at bay! Hoo boy!

THOR #126: You were given a teaser of this in the great THOR ANNUAL #1! But now, here's the real thing! Thor battles Hercules! Va Va Voom!

ASTONISH #78: Here he is—a new villain for the Hulk—with Banner's life again in danger! And a new/old villain for Sub-Mariner—a sensation!

SUSPENSE #76: You'll thrill to Iron Man's epic battle with Ultimo, and it'll get you in just the right mood for Captain America's clobber-fest with Batroc!

STRANGE TALES #143: Can you imagine two super-villains capturing Nick Fury and all of Shield? Just wait, pal! And Dr. Strange does it again! Does what? You'll see!

SGT. FURY #28: The ol' Howlers have rescued all kinds of characters before, but now they REALLY outdo themselves! Here's where they free a whole CITY—from Baron Strucker!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #1: The greatest collection of Golden Age fantasy you've ever seen! You'll thrill to the early work of your favorite artists! And wait'll you see the great glossy photo of Smilin' Stan himself!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #2: Get to your newsstand early! These copies go like gold! An early FANTASTIC FOUR, SPIDEY, and ANT-MAN! Unabridged! That's all!

THE M.M.M.S. WANTS YOU!

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625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

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Name_____

Address_____

City_____ Zip_____ State_____

Age____

School, College or Occupation:

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS!

NATURALLY NIFTY, NEWSY, NONDESCRIPT NONSENSE ABOUT OUR NUTTY NON-ENTITIES!

HOW ABOUT THAT! It could only happen to a Marvel mag! Before the ink was fully dry on the great first ish of our MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS, the fan mail began to pour in from everywhere! And so, in the space of only 30 days, we've changed it from a quarterly to a bi-monthly! Now, let's see how long it'll take to make our latest smash hit a MONTHLY! And, speaking of that—are you aware that every single Marvel super-hero mag is published monthly? Not "monthly with the exception of the following months—" but monthly, period! In case we haven't told you, only Marvel can make that boast!

DIDJA KNOW? Didja know that the famous *National Observer* (published weekly by Dow-Jones) had a sensational write-up about comic mags in its Oct. 11th edition? And guess who got the king-sized share of the mentions, with quotes like: "—The Merry Marvel Marching Society [is] a comic book fan club—chapters meet at such schools as Harvard, Yale, and Princeton.—The publishers explain their new popularity with one word: Sophistication, both in the comics and the readers. The turning point for comics was about three years ago, when Stan Lee decided to try to reach readers beyond the bubble-gum brigade. Aiming at high school and college students, he created the FANTASTIC FOUR.—The F.F. were an instant hit.—The result for Marvel is impressive and promising.—It is selling 33,000,000 copies a year. Marvel Comics—innovator of the new trend." Any questions, students? Didja know the nation's top disc jockeys have been filling the airwaves with paeans of praise for our Marvel mags! In fact, practically every top-rated disc jockey is now a full-fledged Merry Marcher! More about that in following issues, when space allows!

STRICTLY PERSONAL: It hadda happen! JACK "KING" KIRBY himself insisted that jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA was the only logical illustrator to handle Captain America in the master's own style, and if you've seen this month's TALES OF SUSPENSE, you'll know why! And how about the sensational job the jazzy one is doing on DAREDEVIL? Yep, it looks as if ol' ring-a-ding Romita is with us to stay! But you ain't seen nothin' yet! Not till you latch onto TALES TO ASTONISH and thrill to the artwork of BILL EVERETT, who positively draws the hulkiest Hulk you've ever seen! We're really flipping over Bill's reentry into the bullpen, and can't wait to hear your comments. We think he's gonna prove to be another STEVE DITKO—with an inimitable style all his own, just as sturdy Stevey has. By the way, if you see the shiniest, brightest, most fire-engine-red Buick Riviera you've ever seen scootin' down a Long Island highway, wave hello as the dashin' driver barrels by, because it'll probably be dazzling DONNIE HECK with his latest pride 'n joy! If we could get him to spend half as much time at the drawing board as he does polishing his flivver, we could publish the AVENGERS every week! Have you heard about SMILIN' STAN'S first "vacation" in years? He took a whole weekend off, as he and his lovely blonde wife hopped a train to Toronto. Why didn't they fly? Because the train gave him time to bat out a couple of SCRIPTS on the way, natch! Lots of you have been asking for some inside info about IRVING FORBUSH. We can't make up our minds whether to keep him a man of mystery, or to blow the whole bit! But in issues to come, we'll try to clue you in about the most famous nobody in all of comicdom!

DEPT. OF UTTER CONFUSION! It seems we've hardly finished work on our last batch of 25¢ Annuals, but now it's time to start planning our new ones for the summer of '66! Keep watching this space for further details as they develop! Y'know, we can hardly keep track of all our "extra" projects, like our Marvel T-shirts, swingin' stationery, the good ol' M.M.M.S., our life-sized pin-ups, Hulk sweat shirt, etc., etc.! And we've so many more projects in the works that we're going batty! (Oops, sorry! We mean BATTIER!) The amazing thing is that ALL those groovy gizmos have become howlin' hits, and we're beginning to feel as though we work for Sears-Roebuck instead of—of—say, who DO we work for, anyway? Oh well, it's been one of those kinda days again!

THE WRAP-UP: For those of you who might be newcomers to the mighty Marvel Age of Comics, we want to extend a welcoming hand, and to reaffirm a pledge we made years ago to Marvelites everywhere: Our magazines are proudly dedicated to you, the great new breed of comic readers! They're founded on the unswerving principle that our readers have the intelligence and good taste to recognize quality in story and art, and thus are deserving of the best we can produce! We may not always score a home run, but of this you may be certain—we'll always be in there swinging our hardest! So, till we meet again, FACE FRONT! And remember, we're nothing without you!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Allan Levite, Chicago, Ill.
David Hirnes, Whittier, Calif.
Roger A. Moyer, St. Paul, Minn.
Charlie Murphy, Lane, Pa.
Jeff Kikuchi, Culver City, Calif.
Jerry Bires, Youngstown, Ohio
Charles Peach, Wantagh, New York
Stanley Kulha, Otallon, Ill.
Jerry McKeown, Barberton, Ohio
Jim Marks, Golden, Colo.
Jerry Parr, Pleasant, Texas
Mark Stone, Cutoff, La.
Gary Vix, Hasbrouck Hgts., N. J.
Earl Nibblett, Jr., Delmar, Md.
Kenneth Keller, Santa Ana, Calif.
Gary Stillman, Los Angeles, Calif.
Arthur Patrick, Los Angeles, Calif.
Kerry Liesch, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Donald Robbins, Uncasville, Conn.
Mordicar Harriso, Oneonta, New York
Jim Courtney, Oak Lawn, Ill.
Marti Beck, Evanston, Ill.
Dwight Harvey, Oakland, Maryland
L. J. Herro, Watertown, Wisc.
Amy Kolasy, Buffalo, New York
Mathew Peters, Sandusky, Ohio

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SPIDER-MAN #36: His name is the Looter! You've never seen him before! He's Spidey's newest foe! So run, do not walk, to your newsstand—!

THE AVENGERS #27: We don't have to tell you that big things are in store for the Avengers—surprising things—you'll get a hint of what's to come in this great ish!

X-MEN #19: One of the most off-beat super-villains of all makes his premiere appearance in this landmark ish! Not to be missed!

DAREDEVIL #15: Remember the Ox—the strongest member of the Enforcers? Well, he's stronger than ever now—and DD's got him! It's a blast!

THOR #127: Odin himself, for the first time in ages, is in need of help! How? Why? A spectacle of suspense-filled splendor that you'll never forget!

STRANGE #144: A new menace threatens SHIELD—the mysterious Druid! And Dr. Strange walks where man has never trod!

SUSPENSE #77: At last! Iron Man faces the unimaginable Ultimo! And, prepare yourself for anything when you meet the girl from Captain America's past!

ASTONISH #79: Nothing can compare with the impact of Sub-Mariner challenging the Behemoth! As for the Hulk, all we need say is—he battles Hercules!

SGT. FURY #29: We call this epic thriller "Armageddon"—and when your incredulous eyes behold the wonder, you'll soon know why!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #2: More startling suspense smash-hits from the Golden Age of Marvel, featuring fabulous fantasy features by your favorite bullpen buddies!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #2: If you're lucky, there may still be a copy available somewhere! But, since it features an early F.F., SPIDEY, and ANT-MAN, we kinda doubt it!

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS!

GREATER, GROOVIER, GOOFIER GOODIES THAN EVER, GATHERED FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF MARVELDOM!

HOW ABOUT THAT! MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS is such a thunderous sensation that you've been clamoring for more of the same! Well, you know us! We're not gonna leave you faithful frantic ones crying in the streets, and so—we're planning to make our former annual mag—MARVEL TALES—also a bi-monthly, just like M.C.I.C.! We haven't set an on-sale date for it yet, but keep watching this column—and your newsstands . . . it won't be long now! No, no—don't embarrass us with profuse thanks—we're glad to do it—it's a pleasure—being big kids at heart, we love playing with glue pots and scissors, and cutting up old mags and pasting them down again with tender loving care! And, y'know something? We enjoy looking at those old neo-classics of a few years back ourselves! It's a blast to compare the stories and art with today's towering triumphs! Talk about nostalgia—wow!

ITEM: Remember us promising you a list of famous disc jockeys who are full-fledged Marvelites? Some of you may have thought we were putting you on! Well, here's the living proof, pussycat! Check the following list and see which playful platter-spinners are in YOUR neck of the woods, and then—if you're really with it—drop 'im a congratulatory note, as one bullpen buddy to another. They'll get a real kick out of hearing from a fellow Marvel madman, and you'll realize once again that we kiddeth thee not! (By the way, if your favorite d.j. hasn't yet joined our rollickin' ranks, a few frenzied letters from some frantic fans will probably make 'im realize what he's missing! Anyway, it's the least we can do, since mighty Marvel's taking over the whole chicken-scratchin' world!) And now, let us doff our hats as we reverently read the following names with rare and rapturous respect. (In alphabetical order, natch!)

PAUL DREW .....WQXI—Atlanta
JERRY G. .....WKYC—Cleveland
ARNIE GINSBERG .WMEX—Boston
RUSS KNIGHT ...KILT—Houston
STEVE NICOLET ..KPOI—Honolulu
PAT O'DAY .....KJR—Seattle
DICK PURTAN ...WKNR—Detroit
JOHNNY RABBITT.KXOK—St. Louis
JOEY REYNOLDS .WKBW—Buffalo
ART ROBERTS ...WLS—Chicago
RICK SHAW .....WQAM—Miami
GARY STEVENS ..WMCA—New York

Welcome aboard, tigers! You're one of us now—and there's not a dry eye left in the bullpen!

DIDJA KNOW? The world-famous movie writer/director, FEDERICO FELLINI, dropped in to visit the gang at the bullpen last Nov. 3rd! It was a big thrill for us Marvel madmen—and we hope the same goes for Signor Fellini! He really seems to dig our mags, and we spent a wonderful couple of hours showing him around and swapping stories! So, the next time someone gives you a disdainful look when you mention being a Marvel Marcher, you might just casually mention the kinda company you're in! (Not to mention the countless college cliques thruout the free world who are forming Merry Marvel Campus Chapters faster than we can keep track of 'em!)

STRICTLY PERSONAL: At last it can be told! The REAL NAME of admirable ADAM AUSTIN! Most of you newer readers won't recognize it, but those of you who remember us from the days of our former triumphs will instantly remember who he is—in fact, some of you have already guessed his identity! Anyway, to end the suspense, let's bid farewell to A.A., and welcome gallant GENE COLAN to the fold, in all his glory! Gene did sci-fix yarns, westerns, war tales, and just about everything you can think of years ago for Marvel—and, just between us, he's better today than ever!

ITEM: Don't dare miss the first guest appearance in months of your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man! He's co-starred in DAREDEVIL #16, on sale the beginning of March—and you'll stand up and cheer when you see the brilliant interpretation that jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA gives to everybody's favorite web-spinner! It's one of the high-spots of an already sensation-packed comics season!

THE WRAP-UP: Some loyal Marvelites have expressed concern over the fact that, although we were once tolerant of our competition, we now seem to be openly critical of them—and we feel we owe you an explanation for this definite change of policy. In a nutshell, the situation is this: As you know, Marvel has spent years trying to upgrade the art of comic magazines—for, an art it truly is, every bit as much as the cinema, the legitimate stage, or any other form of creative expression. We don't resent competition—indeed, we welcome it. But, we DO resent shabby, carelessly-produced, badly-written and -drawn, conscienceless IMITATIONS of our Marvel mags—imitations which are callously lacking in quality, and which are produced for the sole purpose of making a fast profit in the very field which they themselves are helping to keep at the bottom of the artistic totem pole! We have been flooded with indignant letters from readers who have bought issues of the various Brand Echhs now on sale and have been shocked at the undisguised effort these opportunists have made to confuse the public into believing that their titles are the same as Marvel's! One such company has gone so far as to change its name and trademark so that the reader might think it truly IS a Marvel publication! If these so-called competitors would expend an equal amount of creative effort on the CONTENT of their mags, we'd have no objection, but all they are doing is confusing the public, and giving new ammunition to those who choose to downgrade comics! That is our position! And this is our promise to you—no matter what befalls, no matter how rocky the road ahead may be, your staff here at the Marvel bullpen will never compromise with quality! Our stories, our art, our lettering, and our coloring will always be the best that money can obtain—the finest that dedicated craftsmen can produce! Though the newsstands grow ever more cluttered with inferior imitations, the mighty Marvel magazines will still stand out like shining beacons, guiding you to the finest in reading entertainment! That is our promise, our pledge, our credo! You've made us what we are today—you deserve nothing less! 'Nuff said!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #51: This one features the Thing, more daring and dramatic than you've ever seen him before! And you won't soon forget—the Changeling!

AVENGERS #28: At last! The return of Giant-Man! But—wait'll you see him now! A different costume! A different name!—Even a new and different villain! Wow!

X-MEN #20: Not one—not two—but THREE great old-time foes return to menace our madcap mutants! Lucifer! Unus! The Blob! What more need we say?

DAREDEVIL #16: This is the big one! The Man Without Fear battles your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man to a fare-thee-well . . . and adventuredom will never be the same!

THOR #128: We had to do it! We've had Pluto warming up in the wings for months! For sheer power, for stark villainy, you've never seen his like! And when he meets Thor and Hercules—look out!

STRANGE TALES #145: If anyone can beat Nick Fury, Agent of Shield, the Druid might do it! As for Doc Strange, he has a surprise or two up his sleeve, as always!

SUSPENSE #78: Never has Iron Man reached greater heights of glory than now, in his battle with Ultimo! While Captain America meets Nick Fury in the tale you've been waiting for!

ASTONISH #80: Even if Sub-Mariner can find a way to defeat the Behemoth, there is a greater danger awaiting him! But, how about the Hulk? He's torn between Tyrannus (remember him?) and the Mole Man (likewise)!

SGT. FURY #30: This time Fury's fightin' fanatics do their howlin' in sunny Italy—only with the trouble they're in now, they haven't much time to notice the climate! It's a blockbuster!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #3: The latest issue of the most talked-about new title of all! No need to tell which classics are featured—by the time you've finished reading this, it's probably been sold out!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #2: More startling suspense smash-hits from the Golden Age of Marvel, featuring fabulous fantasy features by your favorite bullpen buddies!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Frederick D. Coward Jr.
Washington, D.C.

Carlos Reyes
New York, New York

Danny St. John
Fairmont, Minn.

Stephen Dunn
Freeport, New York

Ronny Rittenhouse
Statesboro, Ga.

William Grisaitis
Orlando, Fla.

Larry Blazina
Los Angeles, Calif.

John Irwin
Marysville, Calif.

Danny Bluestein
Hallandales, Florida

John Mayer
Chicago, Ill.

John McLean
London, Canada

Charles Bolden, Jr.
Detroit, Michigan

Eddie Boxer
Denver, Colo.

Klaus Rothe
Villa Ridge, Mo.

Marshall Anderson
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Greg Garrett
North Highland, Calif.

Albert Finelli
Waterbury, Conn.

Joseph Ball
Apple Valley, Calif.

Michael Joseph Maher
Laurel, Maryland

Victor Gallis
New York, New York

George Wooden
Richmond, California

Eugene Fisch
New York, New York

Kenneth D. Tarn
Renovo, Pa.

James Mavbikes
Cambridge, Mass.

Mark Arambula
Hollywood, Calif.

Ted Van Duyn Jr.
Rockford, Ill.

INCREDIBLE, INDUBITABLE, INTERMINABLE ITEMS TO STARTLE YOUR SENSES AND SOOTHE YOUR SOUL!

BULLETIN! It's hail and farewell to sturdy STEVE DITKO! SPIDER-MAN #38 and STRANGE TALES #146 (both now on sale) will mark his final appearances in any Marvel mags! (Except for the numerous reprints you'll find in our king-size issues.) Steve recently told us he was leaving, for personal reasons. After all these years, we're sorry to see him go, and we wish the talented guy success with his future endeavors. As for his replacement, all we can say is—since someone else has to draw Spidey, thank Asgard that jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA has returned to the fold! Not only has he captured the spirit, the excitement, and the indefinable uniqueness that have made the ol' web-spinner one of literature's most sensational successes, but Johnny has actually managed to add a new dimension—the attribute of sheer artistic *glamor* which, we predict, will lift Spidey to still greater heights of Marvel magnificence! (And, needless to say, smilin' STAN will continue to turn out the type of stories which no one has yet been able to hold a candle to!) As for Dr. Strange, at the time of this writing, we still haven't chosen a new artist, but we've had a whole kaboodle of volunteers from among our loyal bullpeners, so just wait'n see, pussycats!

BULLETIN! We never realized the whole whacky, wonderful world was so hungry for our rapturous reprints! MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS are being gobbled up as fast as we can turn them out—and the same goes for its new sister mag (or, brother mag, if you prefer), MARVEL TALES! But, here's the stop-the-presses part of our bulletin—we're making FANTASY MASTERPIECES a king-size mag, too—and, besides featuring our greatest and nuttiest monster tales, it will star—hold your breath, now—the earliest tales of CAPTAIN AMERICA—from mighty Marvel's golden era! The first one's on sale now—or, it was! Once this notice appears in print, those nearly-priceless copies will last about as long as a Yancy Streeter at the Thing's birthday party! And we kid [illegible]

BULLETIN! Is our collective face red! We printed an announcement recently about the fact that the famous college mag, the PELICAN, was doing a satire on us! But, we referred to it as the U.C.L.A. PELICAN, when anybody who is anybody (except US) would know that we SHOULD have said the University of California at Berkeley PELICAN! (Or, is it the other way around? Hoos boy!) Anyway, forgive us, Berkeleyites, and many thanks for the kind things you had to say—things such as: "Seekers of wisdom and truth will accept nothing less than MARVEL COMICS – Marvel mags sell faster than Unguentine in a leper colony. They are viciously sought out, purchased, stolen, and hoarded by a rapidly-growing number of students—who have found Marvel to be the first real revolution in literature!—Sartre, Camus, Marx, and Dostoevsky [are] being crowded off intellectual bookshelves to make way for SPIDER-MAN and the HULK—" Etc. etc. etc. We're too modest (as everyone knows) to print any more! But, we promise you this, lads—we'll be sure to get the name of your ubiquitous University correct next time—as soon as someone tells us what it really is!

BULLETIN! Here's one of our most sensational items yet! By the time your sparkling little eyes can devour these wondrous words, Lancer Books, one of America's top paperback book publishers, will be featuring two of our Marvel-ous characters — in paperback book form! Whatever you do, don't miss 'em! They're on sale now! One book features the FANTASTIC FOUR ; and the other SPIDER-MAN! How about THAT!

BULLETIN! There are so many exciting things perking at Marvel, we don't know what to tell you first! Here are a few choice items — to wit — The fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR introduces a brand new character in ish #52 called the Black Panther! We expect the largest mail reaction of the year after you've met him!— DAREDEVIL #s 16 and 17 have been guest-starring Spidey—so don't miss your chance to get a sneak preview of how Ring-a-ding Romita can handle ol' Web-Head! — Everyone's talking about the reappearance of Giant-Man in the AVENGERS . . . and of his name (Goliath) and his new costume (like Wow!) — Stan and Jack are going batty trying to keep track of the Greek gods whom they've introduced in the new THOR series, along with the Norse gods! For the most "celestial" saga around, don't dare miss it! — Have you seen Bill Everett's version of the Hulk yet? It's created a heap of talk in fandom, and you'll be reading the various comments in our letters pages starting next month. Big Bill is one of our old-time, all time greats, and the master still hasn't lost his titanic touch!

BULLETIN! Have you seen those little "mini-books" on sale in vending machines thruout the country? They're about the size of a postage stamp, and more fun than Dr. Doom on a pogo stick! Anyway, early in April you'll be seeing over TEN MILLION new ones — called MARVEL MINI-BOOKS — featuring Spidey, Thor, Captain America, the Hulk, Sgt. Fury, and M[illegible]e the Medal! Watch for them — they're millions more pieces of proof that mighty Marvel is taking over the world — and you're in on the coup right along with us!

BULLETIN! We haven't had much time to mention it lately, but the ol' MERRY MARVEL MARCHING SOCIETY has so many thousands of members now that we're almost running out of numbers for the flood of new applications that keep pouring in! Remember, every Merry Marcher receives a special surprise bulletin in the mail a couple of times yearly, plus all sorts of other goodies too numerous (and too ridiculous) to mention here! And, before we forget, a mighty Marvel salute to amazin' ART ROBERTS, the sensational, swingin' Dee Jay of Chicago's wild and wondrous radio station WLS, for the great job he's been doing in recruiting Merry Marchers for us among his millions of listeners! (And, a personal aside to Art from Stan: Peter Fugitive is the coolest, man!)

THE WRAP-UP! We received a letter which we feel is of such general appeal to Marvelites everywhere, that we're printing a portion of it in this space rather than on a letters page. Here goes:

Dear Stan,

Before you let yourself become entangled in a bitter and senseless tirade against your major competitor, I ask you to stop and consider all aspects of your competition. True, the both of you are marketing the same product — but your treatment of the stories and problems you choose to bring up is startlingly different—and you need not resort to needling and name-calling. To see you, who at times publish such superior material, accuse the other of using your old material is certainly a comedown from when you refused to acknowledge them as competition! It is we, the readers, who suffer from your present course of unpleasant propaganda. I remain one of your most loyal fans. Best wishes,

Mike Murano, 38 Lynn St.,
Peabody, Mass. 01960

Actually, we've never tried to single out any one competitor for criticism. By BRAND ECHH, we really mean all of them! But, that's besides the point. What we want to know is — do most of you agree with Mike? If so, we won't mention Brand Echh again. Personally, we get a kick out of the mutual letter-col needling that goes on — but, as always, our job is to please YOU! So, clue us in, frantic ones — and we'll announce your decision as soon as all the mail is in. Till next month then, FACE FRONT — you never know when Irving Forbush may drop in! 'Nuff said!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SPIDER-MAN #38: Once again Spidey battles a brand-new, nuttier-than-ever super villain!

AVENGERS #29: Wow! Look who's back! Power Man! The Black Widow! And the Swordsman!

X-MEN #21: The secret of Lucifer, revealed at last, as the X-Men face: Dominus!

DAREDEVIL #17: The wrap-up of the season's greatest fight — D.D. vs. Spidey! It's a blast!

THOR #129: Hercules! Pluto! Zeus! Odin! Thor! The Netherworld! How can we do it all for 12¢?

STRANGE TALES #146: Fury tackles the mystery of "Them"! Dr. Strange meets Eternity again!

SUSPENSE #79: Iron Man faces disaster! Captain America takes the Red Skull! Hoos boy!

ASTONISH #81: Sub-Mariner goes mad! As for the Hulk, he's fighting everyone in sight!

SGT. FURY #31: Captain Sawyer gets into action at last! It's a bombshell!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #3: Now giant-sized! Featuring Captain America from Marvel's Golden Age!

MARVEL TALES #3: How's this for a parlay — Spider-Man! Thor! Ant-Man! And the Human Torch!

COLLECTOR'S ITEM CLASSICS #3: Merely the greatest — Fantastic Four! The Hulk! Iron Man! Dr. Strange! And—The Watcher!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Arthur Hastings
[illegible]
[illegible] Barger
Ontario, Canada

[illegible] McGinnis
Nashville, Tenn.
Sidney Watson
Tulsa, Okla.
James Morales
Augusta, Ga.
Marvin [illegible]stoop
Milford, Conn.

Robert Sinkevich
Staten Is., N.Y.
Jack Freedman
Meriden, Conn.
Andy Bandy
[illegible]
Gary [illegible]
Guilford, Ct.

Ron Boat
Martinsville, Va.
Randy Batty
Glendale, Cal.
James Hancock
Bogota, N.J.
Mary Francis Gibson
Nashville, Tenn.

Bud [illegible]mont
Philadelphia, Pa.
Gene Dexter
Springfield, Ohio
Jesse [illegible]
Escondido, Cal.
Mark Arcuio
New York, N.Y.

Dave Londergren
Tacoma, Wash.
[illegible] Hernandez
New York, N.Y.
Mark Sikora
Newark, N.J.
Judy Wagner
San Antonio, Tex.

[illegible] Bates
Wilmington, Pa.
[illegible]
[illegible], Pa.
M[illegible]
Chester, Pa.
Joseph Gatt
Encino, Cal.

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS!

ITEMS OF LASTING INSIGNIFICANCE FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF MARVELDOM!

BULLETIN! Talk about a blast! We just had a visit from Peter Asher of the famous British singing team of Peter and Gordon. Pete's as nice a guy as you'll ever wanna meet, and his Beatle-cut head of flaming red hair is just the coolest! Believe it or not, he's opening a book store in jolly ol' London, and wants to sell our Marvel masterpieces — as well as the works of Shakespeare, Sartre, Saunger, and other equally well-known literary lights! Naturally, we were pleased and flattered, and gave our permish. By the way, Pete told us that the Beatles themselves, who are friends of his, are also Merry Marvelites — which came as no surprise to us. After all, isn't EVERYBODY?

BULLETIN! Most of you know by now that one of our most popular Inkers, Fearless Frankie Ray, is really Frank Giacoia, who used to draw the newspaper strip, "Billy Yank and Johnny Reb". Together with Jazzy Johnny Romita, Frankie's helping to lift DAREDEVIL to greater heights of glory than ever, and we're pleased as punch that he's allowing us to sign his rightful name in the credit lines. And how about the job ol' Ring-A-Ding Romita is doing on your friendly neighborhood SPIDER-MAN, aided by the brilliant delineation of mighty Mickey Demeo? Who SAYS this isn't the Marvel Age of titanic talent?

BULLETIN! Here it is — what you've been waiting for! Our first advance info on the great king-size Annuals we'll be publishing this summer! Although our plans are still subject to change, it looks as though we'll be featuring six terrif titles for you, with two going on sale in June, two in July, and the final two in August. The six mags are: MILLIE THE MODEL ANNUAL (we know that's gonna break all you super-hero fans up!) and SGT. FURY — both on sale in June. Then, the mighty THOR and MARVEL SUPER-HEROES — on sale in July. Followed by the FANTASTIC FOUR and SPIDER-MAN — on sale in August. We can hear you muttering now, "MARVEL SUPER-HEROES! What in the name of Aunt Petunia is THAT?" Well, you know how we love surprises, so just consider it our big surprise for '65, and we'll tell you more about it next ish! Okay?

BULLETIN! You know how we're always saying that Marvel is gonna take over the world? Well, it looks as though our nutty little boast has more truth than poetry in it! This past month alone, more than a hundred newspapers from coast to coast have written feature articles about our lively line of mags — papers such as the N.Y. HERALD TRIBUNE, the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, the AKRON BEACON JOURNAL, the TOPEKA STATE JOURNAL, the CLEVELAND PRESS, the ALTOONA MIRROR, the MILWAUKEE JOURNAL, the BECKLEY POST-HERALD AND REGISTER, RADIO-TELEVISION DAILY, the N.Y. POST, and dozens and dozens more! To all of these great publications, our heartfelt thanks — and to such radio and TV personalities as Tom Dunn of CBS News, and CBS Radio Network's Mike Wallace, our thanks also for interviewing Smilin' Stan over the airwaves! We just hope our fender doesn't start wearing a beret and sunglasses around the office — although it might be a welcome change from seeing him in a Marvel sweat shirt all day long!

BULLETIN! Remember last ish when we asked if you wanted us to continue rapping Brand Echh on the knuckles for swiping everything in our mags except the copyright? Well, all the mail isn't in yet, but while we're waiting for your verdict we thought we'd quote this little verse which Rascally Roy Thomas brought to our attention — it's by William Butler Yeats and was written half a century ago — although it might have been written today! Here 'tis:

> "To a Poet, Who Would Have Me Praise Certain Bad Poets, Imitators of His and Mine"
>
> You say, as I have often given tongue
> In praise of what another's said or sung,
> 'Twere politic to do the like by these,
> But was there ever dog that praised his fleas?

We somehow feel that Willie Yeats said it a lot better than we could have!

BULLETIN! Just in case a few of you lively literature lovers haven't latched onto them yet, those diminutive but dazzling "mini-books" we mentioned last month are still on sale in vending machines from coast to coast! They're a gas!

THE WRAP-UP! We recently received another letter, on a still different subject, which we felt might be of general interest to frantic ones everywhere, so here goes:

> Dear Stan,
>
> Marvel's high standard of artwork is slowly going down the drain. You most likely figure, since you're so popular, that you can afford to hire new artists to lessen the strain on your old artists. The trouble is that only very few of these new artists have come up to standards expected of Marvel. What's wrong with Kirby, your best? Now he only draws two comics completely, and helps out on a couple of others. He probably could easily do another mag or two. I still buy all your titles, but I hope you'll bring them back up to your old standards. Long live Marvel! Your avid fan,
>
> Jan Shpiegelman
> 4900 Chargrove Ave.
> Baltimore, Md

You're better at letter-writing than addition, Jan. King Kirby actually draws three entire strips each month — the F.F., Thor and Captain America, and, of course, he does the layouts on the Hulk and Agent of Shield. The jolly one also draws about two-thirds of all our adventure covers! We don't know of an artist in the business who turns out as much masterful work as Marvel's Prince of the Pencil — and, we think too much of him to load him down with more work than anybody should have to handle! As for our newer artists, we're mighty happy with them, and judging by the majority of our fan mail, so are most of you. We don't hire new artists because of complacency, Jan — rather, it's the other way around. We do it because we feel that change and growth are important elements of the creative process, and we never want to get in a rut if we can help it. We think it's great to add new artists to our lineup, then to watch them blossom into Marvel madmen before our very eyes each month. And, as ever, we earnestly hope you agree with us. 'Nuff said!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #53: The Origin of the Black Panther! A tale you'll never forget!

AVENGERS #30: Is this the end of the new Avengers? Or the beginning of new greatness? Find out!

X-MEN #22: How can ordinary criminals hope to defeat the X-Men? Just wait'll you see this one!

DAREDEVIL #18: Time for a new villain? We agree with you! So, here comes the Gladiator!

THOR #130: The Thunder God battles Pluto's legions in the netherworld! What more do you want?

STRANGE TALES #147: Shield's HQ attacked by "Them"! And the start of a new series for Dr. Strange!

SUSPENSE #80: Iron Man battles Sub-Mariner — while Captain America closes in on the Red Skull!

ASTONISH #82. Namor battles Iron Man! And wait'll you see the Hulk tangling with Boomerang!

SGT. FURY #32: Has one of the Howlers turned traitor? If so — Fury's life depends upon learning which one!

MARVEL TALES #3: How's this for a parlay — Spider-Man! Thor! Ant-Man! And the Human Torch!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #3: Now giant sized! Featuring Captain America from Marvel's Golden Age!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #4: The fabulous F.F.! The Incredible Hulk! Iron Man! Doc Strange! How do we do it for only two bits?

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Carey Frank
Union, N. J.

Douglas Karlson
Highland, Ind.

Alan Jay
San Francisco, Cal.

Nick Fuller
Seattle, Wash.

Paul Brandyberry
Scarboro, Me.

Anthony Casolari
Rochester, N. Y.

Mitchell Goldstein
Merrick, N. Y.

Mike Brisbawn
Spokane, Wash.

Thomas Breaux
Bunkie, La.

John Johnson
San Mateo, Cal.

Nancy Joseph
Hubbard Lake, Mich.

Jason Kearney
St. Louis, Mo.

William Kostruko
Stratford, Conn.

Louise Gumbridge
Scottville, O.

Gary Colrelt
Lake Bluff, Ill.

Rick Carlson
Southgate, Mich.

Sam Brice
Gainesville, Ga.

Ricky Jones
Camp Le Jeune, N. C.

Stephen Hall
Greensboro, N. C.

Michael Gulney
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Erica Brassler
Huntington Woods, Mich.

Carl Brassler
Huntington Woods, Mich.

Dan Bain
Wichita, Kans.

Louis Barrios
Mendota, Cal.

Elin Bernardini
Bronx, N. Y.

Joel Cheek
Louisville, Ky.

CAPRICIOUS COMMENTARIES, CAREFULLY COOKED-UP TO CONFUSE AND CONFOUND YOU!

ITEM: It finally happened! For years, ol' Stan has been threatening to take a vacation. But, just like the boy who cried wolf, nobody paid any attention to him after a while. Until, a few days ago, Jolly Solly Brodsky broke the news to the bullpen that Smiley had finally packed his toothbrush and typewriter and headed south! Although Stan managed to write most of this month's yarns before leaving, there are a few he just couldn't get to, and so, some of our other beautiful bullpeners took over in his stead! We know you'll get a real charge out of seeing the way Rascally Roy Thomas finished up the Sub-Mariner/Iron Man battle in ASTONISH #82, as well as comparing the deliciously different style of Dandy Denny O'Neil, who completed the final 13 pages of DAREDEVIL #18! And, for the most unexpected surprise of all, Jumpin' Jack Kirby himself wrote the script—in addition to doing the layouts—for Nick Fury's S.H.I.E.L.D. thriller in STRANGE TALES #148! You'll be amazed at learning that the King's writing style has the same power and punch as his spe'b'd'ng artwork! Thus, with Jolly Solly heroically riding herd over all the bedlam, ably assisted by Fabulous Flo, Mirthful Marie, and Laughin Larry, we wish Stan the Man a swingin' vacation and hope he comes back soon—those long distance phone calls we've been receiving from him each day are driving us batty!

ITEM: Many of our hipper readers have been swamping us with mail pra sing the new, more authentic Greenwich Village locale in our Dr. Strange yarns. The reason for such instant realism is that Wild Bill Everett felt that no sacrifice was too great to make for mighty Marvel -thus, when he took over the strip, he shared Rascally Roy's Bleecker Street pad for a while, right in the heart of the Village! It's worked out fine, so far, except for one offbeat problem—Roy and the wild one are convinced that their next-door neighbor is a dead ringer for the dread Dormammu!

ITEM: Sweat shirt fans of the world—unite! This is just for YOU! Now, you no longer have to wear your heavenly Hulk shirt 24 hours a day! Our Department of Public Welfare, taking pity on your sartor al plight—heading your plaza and entreatles—has created a nutty new Thing sweat shirt, to enable you to diversify your formal attire! It's the most exciting new innovation in wearing apparel since the beanie cap, and it's no mere coincidence that you'll see it advertised elsewhere in this ish! There's a coupon on the ad—do yourself a favor and use it! (Caution: Although perfect for every occasion, we recommend that your ever lovin' Thing sweat shirt not be worn during a cosmic ray bombardment.)

ITEM: More incomparable info about our once-a-year king-size specials! Ishes! Those of you whose tastes run in that direction will be pleased as punch to learn that our 25¢ MILLIE THE MODEL SPECIAL is now on sale! And, as for the rest of you, you can seek solace in the fact that Marvel's 25¢ SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS SPECIAL is also lending a note of excitement to your favorite mag rack right now! It features a block-buster never-before-printed epic which you've all been clamoring for—the Howlers in action on D Day! Take our word for it—it's a comic book bombshell! Then, the next two once-yearly Marvel Masterworks to watch for will be the 25¢ THOR SPECIAL, as well as our sensational MARVEL SUPER-HEROES SPECIAL. We'll give you the complete scoop on them next ish in this space. (And, be sure to save another four bits for our final two Specials which go on sale in July—the long-awaited FANTASTIC FOUR and SPIDER-MAN super-spectaculars!) Yep, it's gonna be a great summer in Marveldom, and we're planning to spend it right with you—no matter where you may be! (We just hope you don't snore!)

ITEM: Now it can be told! Wondrous Werner Roth—whom you've known as Jay Gavin—has elected to join the grow ng list of Marvel madmen who are so proud of the work they've been doing that they no longer want to use an art stic alias! So now we know Jay's real moniker, as well as the fact that Adam Austin is actually Gene Colan and Frankie Ray was merely a nom de plume for Frank Giacoia! (It's like following a detective story!) Anyway, if you th nk all of this is confusing, wait'll we finally turn the spotlight on Honest Irving Forbush! Hooo boy!

ITEM: Let's add two more groovy deejays to our luminous list of Merry Marchers! Dazzlin' Dick Robinson has been spreading the word about mighty Marvel throughout New England from station WORC at Hartford, Connecticut! Great to have you aboard, Dick! And how about Sparklin Spance Alient Ol' Spanceroo, whose home base is WKSN (they call it "kissin' radio"—pretty cute, huh?) at Jamestown, N. Y., has been doing some of the funniest take-offs you've ever heard by combining pop records with mirthful Marvel interviews! Grab a listen if you're in the area—they're a blast!

ITEM: Have you heard about our cavortin' characters entering politics? Well, mebbe we're exaggerating a bit, but we thought you'd get a kick out of hearing that SLATE, one of the political student parties at the University of California (the one at Berkeley, Stan!) ("In" joke! Forgive us.)—SLATE has been using our heart-warmin' heroes on its campaign posters during the recent college elections! Obviously, they're one bunch of campus cut-ups that are really facin' front!

ITEM: We just had to tell you this! It broke us up the other day! We were sitting around the bullpen, engaged in our usual activity of taking a coffee break and watching the clock, when King Kirby walked in, after having finished an hour-long story conference with Stan. By way of an exit line, Jack was heard to mutter: "Well, we just polished off a few holocausts, and a cataclysm or two! Now, I'll go out and relax by dreaming up a few simple disasters!" Somehow there's more truth than poetry to that sentiment. Ever wonder what it's like to illustrate galactic wars, battles between gods, and cosmic adventures day after day? If a simple thing like an earthquake took place across the street, Jack probably wouldn't even hear it!

THE WRAP-UP: Next ish, on this page, we'll announce the result of our poll in which we asked you whether we should continue to rib Brand Echh or ignore them completely from now on! Also, we'll have additional nutty news and notes from the far corners of Marveldom! So, even if you don't like our stories—even if you shudder at our artwork—we expect you to tune in again next month anyway—after all, SOMEONE'S gotta read these bulletins! Nuff said!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #54: A knockout! Featuring the fighting, flaming Human Torch as he heads back for the Inhumans!

AVENGERS #31: Goliath fights as never before, in the block-busting display of sheer power which you've clamored for!

X-MEN #23: With the fate of the nation's capital hanging in the balance, the X-Men must defeat Count Nefaria's super-team, or die!

DAREDEVIL #19: Don't miss the hair-raising return of the Masked Marauder—as we learn the fate of Foggy Nelson!

THOR #131: Goldilocks has battled all sorts of foes before—but never one as shocking as the dreaded Space Colonizer!

STRANGE TALES #148: What happens when Shield itself tries to get rid of Nick Fury? And, don't dare miss the Origin of the Ancient One—and Kaluul

SUSPENSE #81: Talk about surprises! Titanium Man is back! Plus the saga of Cap desperately battling the power of Red Skull's cosmic cube!

ASTONISH #83: Follow the Sub-Mariner on the trail of Krang once more! Also, don't miss the meeting of General Ross and—the Hulk!

SGT. FURY #33: Guns roar in Greece as Fury and his fightin' fanatics are captured by the enemy! Guest-starring, The two-fisted Skipper!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #4: More Golden Age thrills with Captain America, plus the greatest fantasy epics of all!

MARVEL TALES #4: The most marvelous line-up yet — Spider-Man! Thor! Ant-Man! And the Human Torch!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #4: The fabulous F.F.! The Incredible Hulk! Iron Man! Doc Strange! How do we do it for only two bits?

SGT. FURY 25¢ SPECIAL #2: This is the big one! The actual story of D-Day, as seen thru the eyes of the Howlers themselves!

MILLIE THE MODEL 25¢ SPECIAL #3: Somebody must like this mag! It sells like hotcakes, year after year! A great gift for the gals!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S members!

Chyrle Garrison, Mansfield, Ohio
Don Mackellar, Sidney, Australia
Lee Johnson, Sr. Col., Can.
Richard Benson, Rushville, Ind.
Jim Adams, Lafayette, Ind.
Pete Fleschin, Highland Park, N. J.
Steven Harrold, Rochester, N.Y.
Steve Marsh, Rochester, N.Y.
Mike Clark, Fresno, Cal.
Peter [illegible], Calgary, Alta.
Ed Chamberlain, Rockville, [illegible]
[illegible], Waipahu, Hawaii
Kenneth Groves, [illegible]
Robert Boerter, [illegible]
[illegible], New York, N.Y.
Neil Goldberg, [illegible]
Freddie Ruth, [illegible]
[illegible], Mukilteo, Wash.
Pat Burns, San Antonio, Tex.
Carl Jones, St. Louis, Mo.
Craig Feeney, Rochester, N.Y.
[illegible], Burbank, Cal.
David Fong, Honolulu, Hawaii
Jim Gordon, Kansas City, Kans.
Chris Foster, [illegible]
Pete Bailey, Georgetown, Mass.

NEWSWORTHY NOTES AND NUTTY NONSENSE FROM YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD BULLPEN!

We've a lot of exciting announcements for you this month, so let's not waste a second!

ITEM! Marvel super-heroes on TV! Here's the official scoop so far — our first station will begin showing animated films of five — yep, FIVE — of our Marvel heroes in the middle of September. The characters to be featured will be: Captain America, Iron Man, Thor, Sub-Mariner, and the Hulk — all in full color! What's more, we'll use exactly the same art and stories which have made our mags the sensation of the nation! Production is under way right now, at the famous Grantray-Lawrence Animation Co. in Hollywood, and our Marvel super-heroes will not only be shown throughout the United States, but around the world as well! The list of cities is far too long to print in this space, so we suggest you contact your local TV station and inquire whether or not they'll be carrying the Marvel Comics Super Hero show. And if not, tell them you'll never talk to 'em again!)

ITEM! There are so many new Marvel products on sale everywhere, that we can't tell you about them fast enough to keep up with the supply, but we'll try, anyway. One thing we've got to ask you, though — please don't send money to US for these Marvel goodies — they can only be purchased in stores. In fact, even the gang in the bullpen have to go out and buy their own — when merry Marty Goodman unchains them that is! Anyway, here's a partial list of some of the swingin' things to watch for right now — PAPERBACK BOOKS featuring the F.F., Spidey, Thor, and the Hulk — on sale in July. PHONOGRAPH RECORD ALBUMS packaged with actual Marvel mags — on sale Sept. PLASTIC MODEL HOBBY KITS of Captain America, Hulk, and Spidey, with others to follow — on sale Sept. HATS & HOODS in the style of Spidey, Thor, Cap, and Iron Man — on sale Aug. Spidey and Captain America COSTUMES for Halloween, as well as play suits—on sale Sept. Colorful 3½" BUTTONS of all characters—on sale Aug. MINI-BOOKS now on sale in gumball machines, and panicky PINS on sale in Aug. BUBBLE GUM TRADING CARDS, and TOY RINGS selling like crazy right now! ACTION DOLL utilizing Captain America and Sgt. Fury costumes — on sale June. BOARD GAMES and JIG SAW PUZZLES! Captain America now — Spidey in Sept. T-SHIRTS and SWEAT SHIRTS galore, late in Aug. FLICKER RINGS; CHARMS and STICKY LABELS — in vending machines only — on sale this summer. And, if all those glamorous goodies don't grab you, we're liable to auction off Irving Forbush himself!

ITEM! We've previously told you about the SGT. FURY and MILLIE THE MODEL (who she?) special king-sized ishes which went on sale last month. So, it's time to clue you in about the next two twenty-five centers which are now available. First, there's the THOR SPECIAL, featuring a brand-new, grand-new action epic in which the indestructible Destroyer returns to challenge the combined might of all of Asgard. You'll see mighty Thor and his fellow Asgardians, such as Volstagg, Balder, Hogun, and Fandral in one of the most sensational battles ever presented between two mags' covers! Plus a pair of book-length reprints of the two Thor sagas most requested during the past year! Next, there's our newest title, MARVEL SUPER-HEROES SPECIAL! Not only does it feature the origin of Daredevil, and one of the earliest book-length smash hits of the Original Avengers, but it contains the biggest surprise of the decade! You'll see one of the rarest classics ever unveiled before your startled eyes — a feature-length battle between the ORIGINAL Human Torch and the ORIGINAL Sub-Mariner — as first presented more than twenty years ago! Also, just for kicks, you'll get a charge out of the first short-short story which ol' Stan ever had printed in a comic mag, written when he was seventeen! This one's a real howlin' heirloom!

ITEM! For you cats who can't live another minute without a subscription to a Marvel mag, or wanna send a gift to a friend (or even an enemy — we should worry), here's the scoop — they cost $1.75 for twelve issues (which includes the postage natch!) — or $2.25 in Canada. Foreign subscriptions are $3.25, and if you live on Mars, contact us for a special rate. Send your check or money order to Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 625 Madison Ave., NYC 10022. And if you print your name and address nice and clear, nifty Nancy Murphy, our soulful subscription sweetie will recommend you for a two-toned no-prize!

ITEM! For years fans have been asking to see a sample of King Kirby's inking but jolly Jack just hasn't had the time to put down his pencil and pick up a brush. However, just for kicks, he both pencilled and inked the fight scene depicting Captain America and Ivan the Terrible on the cover of FANTASY MASTERPIECES #4. So, if you want a real not-soon-to-be-repeated treasure, fetch onto a copy pronto!

ITEM! A personal, pleased-as-punch "Thank you!" from Stan to the Merry Marvel Marching Society, Princeton University Chapter, for the wonderful ovation he received when he addressed the Whig Cliosophic Society on campus recently. Stan won't soon forget your warmth and enthusiasm, nor the many laughs he enjoyed with the grand and garrulous group at Blair Hall!

ITEM! How about Dandy Denny O'Neil? Our poor, distraught bullpen buddy has been feeling so neglected because his name isn't mentioned often enough in these bulletins (to suit HIM, that is!) that he left the following newspaper item on our desk: WRITER MAKES HOME IN TRASH CAN. Dennis O'Neil, young writer, today moved into an east side garbage can. Mr. O'Neil, 26, told reporters that he doesn't feel he should associate with human company. "After all, I'm not worthy to be in the Bullpen Bulletin," he explained, "so I'm obviously not worthy to live with folks." Denny boy, give up the garbage can and come home to us again! We love ya — honest!

ITEM! Remember we said we'd announce the result of our poll concerning our mentioning of Brand Echh? Well, we're more confused now than ever! All the mail has been checked and tabulated, and it's evenly divided — fifty percent in FAVOR of our roasting our competition every chance we get, and fifty percent OPPOSED to our carrying the batty bickering on any longer! It looks as though there's nothing left to do but play it by ear — we'll mention 'em when we feel so justified — and ignore 'em when we think they deserve it (like most of the time)! So, till we meet next ish, face front — think nice thoughts — and remember those immortal words of Irving Forbush, which somehow seem to have slipped our minds! See ya, Marvelites!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SPIDER-MAN #41: A brand-new super-villain for Spidey — and what a villain! He's called The Rhino — and he's all you hope he'll be — and more!

AVENGERS #32: Mystery, surprises, and the most merciless new villain of all make this one of the Avengers' greatest! Watch for "The Sign of the Serpent!"

X-MEN #24: The fate of the entire world may depend upon the X-Men — without the missing Marvel Girl — learning the secret of — the astonishing Locust!

DAREDEVIL #20: Looks like New Villains Month at Marvel! You — and DD — are about to meet the deadliest yet — in the strangest tale of all!

THOR #132: No mere words of ours can express the uncanny shock that awaits you as you follow mighty Thor into the unimaginable, unknown, unmentionable Black Galaxy!

STRANGE TALES #149: Don't dare miss the spine-chilling end of Shield's battle with Aim — nor the fantastic start of Kaluu's attack on Dr. Strange!

SUSPENSE #32: Has Titanium Man beaten Iron Man at last? While you're wondering, wait'll you see Captain America face the chaotic challenge of the Adaptoid!

ASTONISH #94: Mighty Nemor, the helpless slave of a hooded arch-fiend — while the rampaging Hulk spreads panic thru the streets of New York!

SGT. FURY #34: Have you ever wondered how Fury, Capt. Sawyer, and Dum Dum first got together? If so, this action-packed thriller is just for you!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #6: Greater than ever! The F.F.! Iron Man! Dr. Strange! The Incredible Hulk! The Watcher! Howzat?

MARVEL TALES #4: The most marvelous line-up yet — Spider-Man! Thor! Ant-Man! And the Human Torch!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #4: More Golden Age Thrills with Captain America, plus the greatest fantasy epics of all!

THOR KING-SIZE SPECIAL #2: Brand new! The indestructible Destroyer returns to battle Volstagg, Hogun, Fandral, Balder, the cream of Asgard's might — and finally — the God of Thunder himself! Never before such senses-staggering spectacle! Plus two of our most requested Thor reprints!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES KING-SIZE SPECIAL #1: The Origin of Daredevil! The Original Avengers vs. the Space Phantom! And, the biggest sensation of all — from Marvel's Golden Age — the Original Human Torch battles the Original Sub-Mariner! Plus: the first comic mag yarn smilin' Stan ever wrote! Hoss Boy!

SENSATIONAL SECRETS AND INCREDIBLE INSIDE INFORMATION, GUILELESSLY GUARANTEED TO AVAIL YOU NAUGHT!

ITEM: Instead of talking about US for a change, we wanna talk about YOU! That's right — YOU, the marry, madcap Marvelite who's holding our mag and reading this page right now. We figure this is as good a time as any to tell you how proud of you we are. Proud of the way you supported us when we first started the Marvel Age of Comics, and the way your support has never faltered thru all the growing pains we've experienced together. Proud of the way you've reacted good-naturedly to our "no-prize" idea — the revolutionary new concept in which we proclaimed that we never wanted any of our treasured readers to lose a contest — consequently, we would award nothing but "no-prizes", because if there were no winners, then there couldn't be any losers. Proud of the way you never made it necessary for us to bribe you in order to win your support — we never had to talk down to you — never had to compromise our principles, or yours — never had to try to scribble ourselves out of the many bonehead mistakes we've made over the years. Yep, to sum it up — we're reminded of Shelley Berman's great exit line to his audiences — "If my show was good, YOU'RE responsible!" We feel the same way: if our mags are good, it's because of YOU! And we just wanted you to know how we feel, and to repeat our credo — We'll never sell you short, frantic one — 'cause we're nothing without you.

ITEM: Our two latest and greatest 25¢ Special issues are on sale right now! Namely, the fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL, and the long-awaited SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL. The frolickin' F.F. ish features a battle between Johnny Storm, our handsome, hot-headed Human Torch, and the most spectacular character of the Golden Age of Comics — the gone-but-not-forgotten ORIGINAL Human Torch! And as usual in all Marvel mags, the tale is neither imaginary, nor a dream sequence — it really happens! How? Well, there's one good way to find out, tiger! Then, as if that isn't enough, that same super-special block-busting issue features the most requested reprint in F.F. history — the now-classic battle between the ever-lovin' Thing and the green-skinned, ungregarious Hulk! As for the SPIDEY SPECIAL, we tossed in everything but the kitchen sink to make sure it would be the sensation of the century! The feature tale deals with your friendly neighborhood web-slinger first battling, and then attempting to join, the mighty Avengers! And, we mean the ORIGINAL Avengers, pal! Then, as if that isn't enough, we even tossed in a thrill-a-minute battle between Spidey and — who, HIM again? — the Incredible Hulk! For our robust reprint section of the mag, we're running two of the most popular Spidey vs. Doc Ock yarns — with not a comma cut! And, if that doesn't send you racing out to your newsstand in a fit of foraging frenzy, then we'll eat our MMMS membership cards.

ITEM: Don't miss STRANGE TALES #150 whatever you do! We've specially redesigned the masthead to give Dr. Strange equal billing with Nick Fury, and we think it's one of the wingiest-looking titles around. If you like it, toss a bouquet at Jolly Solly Brodsky. If not, we're sorry we mentioned the whole thing!

ITEM: For those of you who've been demanding that Dazzlin' Don Heck ink his own pencilling, here's good news — starting with AVENGERS #32, ol' Donnie will do both the pencilling and inking on the mighty ones — and, for those of you who remember his breath-taking style from the good old days (like last week), we need say no more!

ITEM: Have you noticed how magnificently Gene Colan took over Johnny Romita's pencilling chores on the DAREDEVIL mag to give ol' Ring-A-Ding more time to lift Spidey to still greater heights of artistic glory? Both Jazzy Johnny and Gentleman Gene have become two of the fastest-rising stars in Marvel's firmament — and when you add them to such other greats as Jack "King" Kirby, Dashin' Don Heck, Wondrous Werner Roth, Darlin' Dick Ayers, Wild Bill Everett, and the dozens of other long-time Marvel luminaries, it's no wonder that Smilin' Stan sports that toothy grin of his all over the place!

THE WRAP-UP: It won't be long before our swingin' super-heroes make their star-studded debut on TV, appearing five nights a week — that's right, five — count 'em — five nights a week, for a half-hour each night! So, you've just got time to make sure your set's in good working order — check your local paper for time and station — and prepare to have a ball! Till we meet again, stay healthy — stay happy — and stay away from Irving Forbush — we found 'im first! See ya, pussycat!

STOP THE PRESSES!! Hold everything! This is too good to miss! Y'know how we're always telling you that Marvel's taking over the world? Well, we just established a new, block-bustin' beachhead! One of America's top quality mags, none other than erudite, ever-lovin' ESQUIRE, is giving mighty Marvel the biggest play you've ever seen in its great new September ish, specially dedicated to the college crowd! So, if you wanna see our sizzlin' super-heroes featured in full color in one of the most memorable, off-beat presentations yet, don't miss the sensational collegiate issue of ESQUIRE—on sale the middle of August! (And, if they don't return this frolicsome free plug in their own mag, we'll probably never talk to 'em again!)

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SPIDER-MAN #42: You guessed it! Those mysterious spores on Jonah Jameson's son turn him into — well, you'll see for yourself! And you'll also see Mary Jane Watson at long last.

AVENGERS #33: Possibly the most thoroughly satisfying sequel you've ever read, as the mighty Avengers stamp out the sinister Serpents with no holds barred!

X-MEN #25: Our scene shifts to Latin America for one of the most daringly different, dastardly arch-villains ever to challenge our seemingly-doomed mutant marvels!

DAREDEVIL #21: Trapped on a hidden isle — surrounded by a small army of killers led by the uncanny Owl — the Man Without Fear must win his most impossible trial — or die in the attempt!

THOR #133: The God of Thunder finally enters the Black Galaxy, to unlock one of the greatest secrets in the universe — only to meet a still greater danger!

STRANGE TALES #150: Hydra lives again! A new female menace for Dr. Strange! And a mourn, changed masthead for the cover! The things we do for you!

SUSPENSE #83: Iron Man scores his most impressive victory — but then, the unexpected happens! As for Captain America — has he finally met his match in the Adapto'd?

ASTONISH #85: Death claims an unexpected victim with the Sub-Mariner trapped in the city — while the Hulk appears in both strips at the same time. A sensation!

SGT. FURY #35: The Howlers are back — and Nick Fury's got 'em! All he has to do is fight off half the Nazi army — in Berlin, yet! Hoo boy!!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #6: Greater than ever! The F.F.! Iron Man! Dr. Strange! The Incredible Hulk! The Watcher! Howzat?

MARVEL TALES #5: Spidey — Thor — Ant-Man — the Human Torch — the way-out, wonderful Wasp! All for 25¢ — the biggest bargain since Manhattan Island!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #5: Three more glorious Golden-Age goodies with Captain America — plus a titanic trio of yesteryear's greatest fantasy sagas!

FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL #4: The old Human Torch vs. the blazing Johnny Storm — all new, never-before-seen thrills and action! Plus, the Thing and the Hulk in mortal combat, from F.F. #'s 25 and 26! A study in greatness!

SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL #3: The old Avengers, in all their power and glory, meet a fighting-mad Spider-Man — and then, at the very peak of the excitement — enter the Hulk! Plus, two of Spidey's toughest battles with Doc Ock, just as originally seen in the web-slinger's own mag! Action as you like it!

Let's meet 25 more M M M S. members!

Steve Chapman	Dan Connell	John Cox	J. Griffin	Doug Clark	Richard Coburn	Walter Chao
Alan Boyd	Andy Yea	Kitchener Canada	Bellerose N. J.	Alta Canada	Manteca Ca.	Fairbury Ill.
Gladstone Mich.	Bronx N.Y.	Baltimore Md.	Monroe Ohio	Mt. Clemens Mich.	Kansas City Mo.	Wichita Kan.
	Deer Park Hgts. Wisc.	Santa Clara Cal.	Bladensburg Md.	Spring Lake Park Minn.	Stoneham Mass.	Toledo Ohio
	Frazer Pa.	Yorkana	Bartlesville Okla.	Chattanooga Tenn.	Rego Park N.Y.	Lees Summit Mo.
					Henry Grass	Robert Higginbotham
						Dennis Mansell

EARTH-SHATTERING ESSAYS, ELOQUENT EPITHETS, AND EXAGGERATED ENDORSEMENTS WHICH YOU CAN EASILY LIVE WITHOUT!

ITEM: The response to Gentleman Gene Colan's amazing artwork on DAREDEVIL was so wildly enthusiastic that we've decided to let him continue drawing D.D.'s thrillers! This will give Jazzy Johnny Romita more time to concentrate on your friendly neighborhood SPIDER-MAN, and to take a breather once in a while after drawing all those crrrrrazy webs! Meanwhile, to make things easier for Gene, we've assigned the Sub-Mariner strip in this month's ASTONISH to a new bullpen luminary—and we'll be on pins and needles waiting for your opinion. There—if that isn't enough to confuse everybody, then we've goofed again!

ITEM: It looks as though Marvel really IS taking over the world! Those of you in the New York area have probably already noticed the way Channel 9 (WOR TV) is blanketing the metropolitan zone with the Marvel message—splashing the news of our swingin' TV shows on everything from subway posters to milk cartons! (Grade A cartons only, we hope!) We assume that a zillion other stations thruout the free world, where the Marvel madness is about to be unleashed on the home screen, are doing likewise! But, if you find that YOUR local channel isn't marching along with us, do your duty, tiger—tell 'em they won't get a no-prize!

ITEM: Our six star-studded 25¢ Specials are probably all sold out by now, but we thought we'd mention 'em again anyway, in case you wanna try to prove us liars! For those of you who've been living in a well for the past few months, the titles are: FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL, SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL, THOR SPECIAL, MARVEL SUPER-HEROES SPECIAL, SGT. FURY SPECIAL, and (ulp!) MILLIE THE MODEL SPECIAL! If you can still find one on sale anywhere, give yourself two extra points—and, if you buy it, go to the head of the class!

ITEM: Smilin' Stan is so delighted with the way Wild Bill Everett has been drawing Dr. Strange (in STRANGE TALES, natch), that the old hambo couldn't resist writing the newest mystical masterpiece himself! Also, for the benefit of the Johnny-Come-Latelies among you, we've included a riotous resumé of much that has gone before, to bring you up to date. So, if you wanna see how wild a yarn can be, latch onto the start of Doc's newest adventure into necromancy—like right now, bear!

ITEM: It's time for you to meet some of our behind-the-scenes big-wigs who, though rarely mentioned in our cavortin' credits, are as much a part of the Marvel mythos as Irving Forbush himself! Now pay attention—a quiz may follow! At the top of our hectic heap sits the king-of-the-hill, Merry Marty Goodman, publisher, and peerless purveyor of profound policy, pulsating plaudits, and palpable pay-checks! When he speaks, we listen! When he frowns, we tremble! When he smiles, we know that somewhere one of you has bought another Marvel mag! And, buried beneath a mountain of sales figures, we find Jovial Johnny Hayes, our circumventing circulation manager. You should see him fly into a frenzy—hurl himself into a fit of sheer hysteria—whenever he learns of some deprived dealer who may not have received our Marvel mags on time! Wait, whom have we here? Who sits thus spinning records, watching TV, fondling plastic super-hero models, inspecting sweat-shirts and bubble gum cards with equal aplomb? 'Tis none other than Cheerful Chip Goodman, master of Marvel merchandising, who daringly dispenses our goodies to all the aesthetic areas beyond the printed page! But, how remiss we would be if we failed to salute Admirable Arthur Jeffray, keeper of our MMMS files, guardian of our club coupons, and defender of the faith! And what of Nifty Nancy Murphy? Shall we ever forget her soulful self-sacrifice in the face of our daily Marvel subscription list snafus? Or Delicious Doris Siegler, the most welcome sight in all of Marveldom, for it is she, our benevolent bookkeeper, who doth dole out our salaries each week! So, let us pause for a moment in silent, somber homage as we ponder the grave and momentous import of that which hath been revealed!

ITEM: Judging by your mountain of mail, we've been made painfully aware that most of you true believers have expected a battle between Subbie and ol' Green Skin in the recent ishes of ASTONISH. It would have been easy for us to accomplish. We did toy with the idea. But then we decided against it—simply because it was such an obvious development. You know us—we'd rather do things the oddball way. We got a boot out of the idea of two super-powered cats being in the same area, at the same time, and NOT running into each other. It seemed to fit the usual mixed-up Marvel mold, as we saw it. However—now that we know how much you'd like Namor to tangle with our Jolly Green Giblet, we promise you this—sooner or later, somewhere, somehow, we'll DO it! But, in the meantime, send us your suggestions as to the proper artist for such an epic. Should it be Gentleman Gene? Wild Bill? Should we lasso Jolly Jack away from Asgard for a while? Or have you any other ideas? Thus do we await the thunderous voice of Marveldom! Thus do we command thee, in tones most stentorian—FACE FRONT, frantic ones! The best is yet to be!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #57: Doctor Doom returns! The Inhumans get closer to freedom! The Silver Surfer reappears! We're printing thousands of extra copies for this, possibly the greatest single issue of all!

AVENGERS #34: Introducing a sensationally different type of villain! This one man has power enough to bring the mighty Avengers to the brink of defeat! And, when he meets the Wasp—look out!

X-MEN #26: A cataclysmic, catastrophic combat, as the world's most unusual fighting team battles the reincarnation of a Mayan god! And, one of the mighty mutants is gravely wounded—by a fellow X-Man! You must not miss it!

DAREDEVIL #22: A super-villain riot! New super-foes! Old super-menaces! A million twists and surprises as the Man Without Fear tries to defeat a foe who can't be beaten! And, talk about action—!

THOR #134: We confidently predict that the stupefying theme of "The People Breeders" will be argued about and remembered as long as literature endures! Only Marvel would dare pit a Thunder God against—well, you'll see!

STRANGE TALES #151: Nick Fury is captured by Hydra! The Overkill Horn is about to sound! Smilin' Stan and Wild Bill join forces on Doc Strange! It's a block-buster!

SUSPENSE #84: The most dramatic, unexpected event in the history of Iron Man! This one'll take your breath away! And, wait till you see Cap battle the Super-Adaptoid! It's pure Kirbyesque magic!

ASTONISH #86: What will the Sub-Mariner do with Warlord Krang and Lady Dorma dying before his eyes? As for the Hulk, he finally faces a foe he cannot frighten, a menace that even he cannot overcome!

SGT. FURY #36: The hard-hitting Howlers take on a trainload of Nazis in the heart of the towering Alps, as newcomer Eric Koenig must prove himself in battle—against his best friend! A categorically contemporary, controversial classic!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #6: The fabulous Fantastic Four! The invincible Iron Man! The dynamic Dr. Strange! The incredible Hulk! Another block-bustin' bargain from your big-hearted bullpen!

MARVEL TALES #5: Spidey—Thor—Ant-Man—the Human Torch—the way-out, wonderful Wasp! All for 25¢—the biggest bargain since Manhattan Island!

FANTASTY MASTERPIECES #3: Three more glorious Golden-Age goodies with Captain America—plus a titanic trio of yesteryear's greatest fantasy sagas!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Martin Gheim, Dover, Mass.
Richard Coburn, Monterey, Cal.
Matt Klimow, Johnson City, N. Y.
Dave Heffner, Muncie, Ind.
Toby Fixel, New York, N. Y.
David LaPoint, Stoneham, Mass.
Mathew Connerton, N. Hampton, N. H.
Layne Niland, Youbon, Canada
Tommy Compton, Detroit, Mich.
Steven Harvey, New York, N. Y.
Michael Farinacci, Denver, Colo.
Michael Gilbert, Waterloo, Iowa
Charles Jones, New York, N. Y.
Odell Harrington, Peoria, Ariz.
Alvin Fulton, Kinstree, S. C.
Frank Federico, Lynn, Mass.
David Hartley, Ben Hur, Va.
Larry Farley, Scarboro, Canada
Dickie Larson, Billings, Mont.
Lonnie Hamilton, Detroit, Mich.
Sheldon Hyatt, Anoka, Minn.
Joseph Costanzo, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Steve Hargis, Vida, Mo.
George Hill, Ozone, N. Y.
Albert Fanelli, Phila., Pa.
Steven Cipolla, Coventry, R. I.

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

PULSE-POUNDING PRONOUNCEMENTS, PASSIONATELY PHILOSOPHICAL, PREPOSTEROUSLY PROFOUND, and PARTICULARLY PREPARED FOR PERMANENT OBLIVION!

ITEM! It's a funny feeling writing these Bullpen pages — here's why — Smilin' Stan is typing these imperishable words on July 14th — but by the time they're sent to the printer and finally reach YOU, it'll be some time in October! In other words, there's always an interval of about three months from the time we write something till the time you read it! Even though you've probably seen our Marvel Super-Heroes TV show by now — at the time we're writing this, it won't be on the air for another two months! It's kind'a spooky, isn't it? Anyway, that's the reason WE can't comment about our show yet, even though YOU can! It'll be a couple of months before WE get to see it! See how much luckier YOU are! Who SAYS this isn't the Marvel Age of Compounded Confusion?

ITEM. We just received a letter from a ravin' reader who asks a question that many of you have tossed at us over the past few years — and so, we figure we might as well answer it here and now! First, the litin' letter:

> Dear Bullpen Gang:
>
> I am curious to know how the letters for your letters columns are selected. Does Stan run all the letters thru one of Reed Richard's all-purpose computers — or does Irving Forbush just go Eeny Meeny Miney Moe?
>
> Neil Naches
> 631 E. 96th Street
> Bklyn., N. Y. 11234

Now, for the benefit of a wildly waiting world — your unbelievable answer: Actually, Fabulous Flo, our gregarious gal-Friday, opens all the mail first, and scans it quickly for the [illegible]. Then, all the letters of those that pass the interest (which includes about 99% of 'em) are given to Smiley. Poor Stan the Man, who has turned into a case of human, walking eye-strain, gobbles 'em up and puts a check atop those he thinks would be interesting enough for our various letters pages. He then returns 'em to Flo who bravely types them up for the printer, after first passing them around to the rest of the Bullpen. You might be interested in knowing that we read anywhere from 200 to 500 a day, in order to select a half dozen or so for the letters pages! Now then, if there's anything ELSE you wanna know about the process, don't write us a letter! Have pity, pussycats!

ITEM: Here's some more late info about the merry Marvel goings-on at various campuses around this cavortin' country of ours: Just recently, the STANFORD U. MMMS'ers, led by Jumpin' Jack Marchese stumped your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man into the office of Campus King, while collecting hundreds of dollars for charity! . . . Readers of the TRINITY COLLEGE magazine, *Ivy*, are undoubtedly being awed by rapturous reprints of Marvel artifacts in the Sept. ish! . . . RENSSELEAR POLYTECH was the scene of a mirthful Marvel Beaux Arts Ball last April! The festivities featured a home-made 9-foot pic of mighty Thor, curls and all, plus 30x40-inch posters of actual Marvel panels! . . . Tom Salazar and Corky Reed of COLORADO STATE gave their prof a Spidey T-shirt which he dramatically donned for class one day! So here's to Doc Fry — long may he propagate the faith! . . . A tribute to Marvel was broadcast by Ken Friedman at SHIMER COLLEGE recently — while WESU-FM, at WESLEYAN U., is actually planning a Marvel dramatization series for the coming semester, for which we proudly thank station-manager Mark Estren. . . . Oh, by the way, the Rensselaer Polytech Beaux Arts Ball featured Mike Alderstein dressed as Spidey; Tony Pangaro as the Black Panther; John Matthews, Barb Webster, Debbie Frost and Mike Hunt as the F.F.; and our cavortin' correspondent Pete Crissey as an Agent of Shield. (His wife, Sharon, was his captive, natch!) . . . In between times, we hope the Marvel Madness mentioned above managed to fetch onto a little erudition as well!

ITEM: Let's meet a few of our newest Bullpen buddies: You'll notice the name JIM STERANKO listed as illustrator of the current Agent of Shield series in STRANGE TALES. Jim is a titanically talented newcomer, with a really exciting background. Believe it or not, he was formerly one of our most successful stage magicians — being billed as the greatest liberationist (escape artist) since Houdini! And then there's Mischievous MORRIE KURAMOTO, our latest addition to Jolly Solly's hard-working production staff. Besides being a cracker-jack letterer, Morrie is one of Asia's top water-color artists! And how about Marie's sweet new helpmate — RON WHYTE? Ron is merely the recipient of a fellowship to the Yale Drama School — and has the greatest sensahumor since J. Jonah Jameson! So, welcome aboard, group — and thanks for adding a little more glamor to Marveldom!

ITEM: It looks as though EVERYONE is latching on to Marvel these days! In the June '66 ish of THE NEW GUARD, published by The Young Americans for Freedom, there was an adroit appraisal of the Marvel Mystique which seems to be us back on our heels! (Aside to dynamic Dave Nolan — your no-prize is on the way.)

ITEM: Whoops! We almost forgot to list the newest disc jockeys on our ever-growing roster! Let's hear it, gang, for — Rick Stevens, WONE, Dayton, Ohio — Don Kennedy, KISN, Portland, Ore. — King Zbornik, WRIT, Milwaukee, Wisc. — Rege Cordic, KNX, Los Angeles, Calif. — and Rick Snyder, WTRY, Troy, N. Y.! — Heroes all! Incidentally, how about us giving a stainless steel no-prize to the deejay who's the fastest talker? Many fans have told us that Merry Marcher Gary Stevens, WMCA, New York, should win the prize hands down — but we'd like to hear what the rest of Marveldom thinks. So, let us know who YOUR nominee is for the title "The Fastest Gums in Marveland"! We'll announce the winner sooner or later, somewhere or other, in our usual methodical manner!

See you again next ish — same time, same bulletin page! Till then, remember to be good to each other! After all, isn't there a little bit of the super-hero in all of us?

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SPIDER-MAN #44: He's really back! None other than the [illegible] — one of Spidey's most [illegible] foes — far more menacing than ever!

AVENGERS #35: Just like we promised you — you'll see the big change in Goliath at last — not to mention the final fate of the Living Laser!

X-MEN # 27: The return of the marvelous Mimic! Plus, more super-guest-stars and super-problems than you can shake a gamma ray at!

DAREDEVIL #23: Another thrilling change of scene for DD, as he battles the Gladiator to a finish in the most off-beat yarn of the season!

THOR #139: Sensational! You'll gape at the origin of the High Evolutionary! And, you'll flip at the way Goldilocks battles the future Man-Beast!

STRANGE TALES #152: Shield finally shows its block-busting power — while Dr. Strange enters a dimension so mysterious that we can't even describe it here!

SUSPENSE #85: Iron Man faces the Mandarin once more — but things are different this time! As for Captain America — he wages one of his greatest fights — against Batroc!

ASTONISH #87: You've never seen anything like the Sub-Mariner's showdown with Krang — nor the Hulk's epic struggle against the indestructible Hulk-Killer!

SGT. FURY #37: The hectic Howlers are up to their battle-helmets in sand, as they take on Nazis and desert tribesmen alike on the North African front! Wah-hoo!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #6: The fabulous Fantastic Four! The Invincible Iron Man! The dynamic Dr. Strange! The incredible Hulk! Another block-bustin' bargain from your big-hearted bullpen!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES: Another terrific trio of [illegible] as well as everybody's Golden Age favorite — Captain America — plus three fantasy classics!

MARVEL TALES #6: Spidey — Thor — the Human Torch — and the high-flyin', heavenly Wasp! All in one mag. — the biggest bargain since the Louisiana Purchase!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Richard A. Berson
Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Peter Hartman
Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Kirk Mates
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Douglas Bell
[illegible], N.Y.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Cindy Jenks
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Leslie Krausth
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Lewis Kniffat
[illegible], N.Y.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

David McGinn
[illegible], N.Y.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

THE LATEST LOW-DOWN ON MARVEL'S LIGHT-HEARTED LUMINARIES FOR LITERATURE LOVERS AT LARGE!

ITEM: Before we do another thing, we've gotta give a mighty Marvel vote of thanks to the famous serviceman's newspaper, *Stars and Stripes*, for the terrific write-up they gave out mags just a few ishes ago! We've received enthusiastic letters of comment about it from G.I.'s all over the world, and no wonder, considering that *Stars and Stripes* had things like this to say about us: "(Marvel is) responsible for getting the collegiate crowd on the comics kick"! Then, they go on to say, "From the Ivy League to the Pacific Coast Conference, more than 100 college campuses have their own fan-club chapter of the 'Merry Marvel Marching Society'." Not to mention "—They are the first breed of super-characters that young adults can really identify with." Though the thing that really knocked us out was when we read: "—It's anything but 'just another fad' when the professors are reading them, too." We'd love to quote lots more, but you all know how inordinately modest we are — so we'll just toss another "much obliged" to our great G.I. boosters, and let it go at that!

ITEM: We get letters each day complaining about the difficulty of finding Marvel mags in some areas. The best way to prevent this unspeakable tragedy is to tell your dealer that he should be sure to display the Marvel titles up front. We're not trying to get you to shill for us, but unfortunately some dealers haven't yet realized the difference between Marvels and ordinary comics — and only you, O Keeper of the Faith, can remedy that situation by letting your dealer know that we're taking over the world — together!

ITEM: We never thought we'd say anything like this to you — because you know how greedy we are — but for the love of Aunt Petunia, don't send us your nickels, dimes, quarters, or postage stamps for our rings, mini-books, plastic figures, bubble gum cards, toys, or any of that jazz! We don't have any here at the Bullpen — honest. We're not the ones who sell those items — the manufacturers themselves do that! So, watch for all our Marvel goodies at your local stores and spare the gang in the Bullpen from having to lick a zillion stamps daily! Okay?

ITEM: It's time for another of our extravagant explanations! Practically every Marvelite in captivity has written to ask why we printed a TV ad a month or so ago which featured another company's character! Some of the letters were cute as all get-out, describing us as turncoats, traitors, defectors, or just plain weak-minded! Perhaps it was a startling sight to see a rival super-hero staring at you from the pages of one of our own publications! But the explanation is really kind'a simple. We most sincerely believe in the theory of a free press. We also believe that honest competition is healthy for everybody concerned. So, if a competitor wants to pay us his own good money in order to buy an ad in one of our mags, we're delighted. Actually, we consider it a great compliment to us — for it proves that no matter how they may hate to admit it, even they are willing to pay a bundle just to appear in a Marvel mag! (Say! Do you think they'd accept an ad for one of our mags in a book of theirs? It sure would be fun to find out!)

ITEM: Have we told you yet about the big COMICS FAN CONVENTION held in midtown Manhattan at the end of July? The guest of honor was none other than Jolly Jack Kirby who gave a short, enthusiastically-received speech to his many fans, and then answered a whole kaboodle of questions from everyone in sight. A few weeks later at another Comics Con, practically the whole Marvel Bullpen was in attendance. Smilin' Stan talked and talked and talked and talked — and talked — for hours, in his usual capriciously confusing manner, while Rascally Roy, Fabulous Flo, Jazzy Johnny, Wild Bill, Jaunty Jim, Mirthful Marie, Rambunctious Ron, Dandy Denny, Litt'n' Larry, and Merry Morrie did their brilliant bit to spread the word of Marveldom thruout the awed assemblage! Our thanks to Dave Kaler, John Benson, and the many, many frantic fans whose heartwarming hospitality and good humor helped to make the occasion a truly memorable one for us all!

ITEM: Before next month's mags go to the printer, we should start receiving your cogent comments concerning our Marvel Super-Heroes TV Spectaculars! So, watch this space, as well as our various letters pages for a detailed summing-up of the pros and cons of Marvel's first venture into what we laughingly refer to as — Show Biz! We have a hunch it'll be fun to compare notes. And remember — every one of you true believers is an official Marvel Critic-at-Large! We have spoken!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SPIDER-MAN #45: The eagerly-awaited wrap-up of our now-famous Lizard saga! See one of the greatest fight scenes of all time as Spidey, with one arm in a sling, dares to tackle one of his deadliest foes!

AVENGERS #36: No card-carrying Merry Marcher would dare miss the exciting, rapturously-requested return of Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch! And, just for good measure, we tossed in one of the most mind-staggering melees ever! You've been warned, pussycat!

X-MEN #26: We hadda do it! At long-awaited last, the X-Men face a brand new mutant menace whose super-power is . . . the Wail of the Banshee! Also, wait'll you get a peek at the overwhelming, unspeakable Ogre!

DAREDEVIL #24: In answer to a zillion requests, we have another nutty, nail-biting mystery for you! And, just to make it extra-special, it features the return of a fighting-mad Ka-Zar — plus, the most serious threat yet to Matt's secret identity! A sizzler!

THOR #136: The big one, at last! Odin decides to make Jane Foster an immortal, so that she and the Thunder God can be married! But, it leads to one of the most unusual, unsuspected problems of all! We kid thee not!

STRANGE TALES #153: Nick Fury stars in one of the most hair-raising auto chases since the Perils of Pauline, as Hydra strikes again — while Dr. Strange attacks an army of Mindless Ones, single-handed, to save a helpless girl!

SUSPENSE #36: You've never seen Iron Man stronger — more supremely powerful — than now, when he battles the menacing Mandarin to a fateful finish! Meanwhile Captain America invades an enemy stronghold to learn the secret of the dreaded Z-Ray!

ASTONISH #88: The surprise sensation of the season! Mighty Prince Namor faces a menace from outer space — and the evil Attuma, as well! And, talk about fights! You'll flip your wig over the Hulk's bombshell battle with blustering Boomerang!

SGT. FURY #38: The hard-hitting Howlers blaze into action in the Mediterranean theater, alongside a Japanese-American hero of the famed Nisei regiment. In addition, you'll wanna be on hand to find out the latest scoop on the wounded Dino Manelli!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #7: The fabulous Fantastic Four! The invincible Iron Man! The dynamic Dr. Strange! The incredible Hulk! Never before have so many fans received so much for so little!

FANCY MASTERPIECES #6: Another terrific trip of titanic tales with everybody's Golden-Age favorite, Captain America — plus three fantasy classics!

MARVEL TALES #6: Spidey — Thor — the Human Torch — and the high-flying, heavenly Wasp! All in one mag — the biggest bargain since the Louisiana Purchase!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Dennis Herbson, Pittsburgh, Pa.
George Herrmann, St. Louis, Mo.
Paul D. Garon, E. Charlotte, Vt.
T. W. Bowell, Jr., Roanoke, Va.
Scott Lottridge, Niles, Mich.
Howard Lett, Council Bluffs, Iowa
John Link, N. Bergen, N. J.
Paul Carlsen, Montclair, N. J.
John Ayles, Lima, Ohio
Robert Burzawa, Chicago, Ill.
Bobby Lee, Harriman, Tenn.
Wayne Coker, Saratoga, N. Y.
Gregory McCarron, N. Y., N. Y.
Lawrance Hauser, Freeport, N. Y.
Charles Kempton, Hudson, N. H.
John Hill, Seattle, Wash.
Frank Baldwine, Honolulu, Hawaii
David Henry, Atlanta, Ga.
Mary F. Indiony, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Clint Cooper, Lisbon, N. Y.
Barry Jones, Wareham, Mass.
Spencer McGowan, Greenville, S. C.
Howie Coplan, Baltimore, Md.
Don Meeks, Fremont, Cal.
Bill Sigal, Chicago, Ill.
John Adnot, Lake Park, Fla.

NUTTY NOTES AND NONSENSICAL NAME-DROPPING, FEATURING NATURALLY NON-ESSENTIAL NEWS OF THE NATION'S TOP NON-ENTITIES!

ITEM: Boy, are we frustrated! Our printer just called to say he has to have this Bullpen Bulletin page on the presses by tonight! And this is the week our Marvel Super-Heroes TV show goes on the air—which means we won't receive your letters of comment for another few days! Therefore, we can't print a summary of all your opulent opinions until our next BB page! Although we may manage to squeeze a mention or two in some of our Letters Pages—'cause they go to the printer a few days later. Anyway, by next ish we'll have everything all straightened out (at least, as straightened out as We can ever have things!)—so, till then, let's go on to our other items of earth-shaking unconcern—

ITEM: The big talk around the Bullpen these days concerns Marvel-ous MARIE SEVERIN, who's just taken over the lettering chores on the Doc Strange strip. The truthful Miss Severin has been keeping us in stitches for years with the hilarious cartoons she whips up whenever no one's looking—but it never occurred to us (or to her) that she could also draw a sensational serious strip—never, that is, until Our Leader asked her to take a whack at Doc Strange, because WILD BILL EVERETT wanted to devote himself full time to his beloved Sub Mariner. Well, the rest is history. This gal is gonna be one of the greatest! (We're not sure about the greatest what—but why be picky?) And to anticipate your question, the answer is "yes"—she's the sister of talented JOHN SEVERIN, who illustrated our Agent of Shield strip about a year ago. Anyway, we know you'll enjoy watching her achieve real Marvel stardom as the months go by—and, take it from us—it couldn't happen to a nicer gal!

ITEM: We'll award a pocket-sized, portable, ten-transistor no-prize to any True Believer who can name a feature in any comics magazine which has had more artists handling it than the happy-go-lucky Hulk! We can name at least six stalwarts who've tackled the illustrating chores in just the past few years—and knowing how blechhh our memories are, we're sure that you can name a lot more! However, it's just barely possible that we've come up with the perfect choice for ol' Green Skin in the person of Gil (Sugar) KANE! We're not really sure what makes his version of everybody's favorite monster so appealing, unless it could be those gamma ray treatments we've been forcing him to undergo! Anyway, we're trying to chain him to the drawing board, and if we succeed, it seems as though ol' Tom Pants will have his own steady artist at last!

ITEM: Unless we figure out what to do about it real fast, it looks like the FANTASTIC FOUR are gonna have the biggest cast of characters in super-hero history! What with the six most famous Inhumans now being free—not counting their dog Lockjaw—and the Silver Surfer still making the scene, as well as the Black Panther, Wyatt Wingfoot, the Wizard, Sandman, Alicia—and don't forget the original four members of the F.F.—or the ever-delightful Doc Doom—all we can say is: Hoo boy! (And, imagine if we had to feature the Yancy Street Gang regularly, too!—There are dozens of 'em!) Now do you see why poor Stan and Jack even have trouble remembering their own names sometimes?

ITEM: Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Rapid Advancement? Didja notice that RASCALLY ROY THOMAS is now scripting four features each month? (And, it seems like only yesterday that SMILIN' STAN was telling him what all those little buttons on the typewriter were there for!) Hard working Roy is busily putting words in the mouths of The X-MEN, SGT. FURY, the AVENGERS, and S.H.I.E.L.D.! But, here's the payoff—Roy was originally supposed to lighten the work load for poor Smiley; but now that the Rascally One is so busy, we hadda hire another budding Shakespeare to take the pressure off him! So, let's hear it for GARY FRIEDRICH, whom we snatched away from an editorial job on a Midwest newspaper to help bring culture and enlightenment (Marvel style!) to all you Keepers of the Flame!—Pretty soon, we'll have to start issuing score cards so you'll know who's who—and then maybe you'll be able to tell us!

ITEM: We just hadda mention it on the Bullpen page—lest any card-carrying MMMS-er overlook the newest Marvel title amidst the multitudinous melange of mundane mags currently flooding the nation's newsstands. Yep, for those of you who have already discovered it, we're blowing our own horn about . . . THE GHOST RIDER, latest addition to our Ultra Western lineup. So, those of you who flip for KID COLT OUTLAW . . . THE RAWH IDE KID . . . and THE TWO GUN KID . . . can now add another title to that lustrous list of saddle sore sagas! (We do publish the three Western titles listed above, don't we? It would be kinda embarrassing if one of 'em belonged to Brand Echh! Oh well — — !)

ITEM: Before we forget, we wanna wish you the best of everything for this holiday season. May you have good luck, good health, and a good sense of humor—if you do, everything else will take care of itself! So stay happy, and be good to each other. Who knows—? it could become contagious! — Nuff said!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #60: The Inhumans are free! Dr. Doom and the F.F. fight it out to the most exciting finish you've ever read! Plus . . . the Silver Surfer! Only 12¢? How do we do it?

AVENGERS #37: The Avengers polish off the Ultroids—only to run smack dab into the even mightier menace of . . . Ixar the Incredible! And wait'll you see Wanda and Pietro in action once more!

X-MEN #29: The Mimic vs. the Super-Adaptoid! It's like the X-Men and the Avengers all rolled into one powerhouse package! Adventuredom will never be the same again!

DAREDEVIL #25: The most unexpected development of all—DD introduces his "twin brother" to Karen and Foggy. And—wait'll you see his battle with the Leap-Frog! It's a sensation!

THOR #137: Never has Asgard faced a greater danger than—the Trolls! And, never has Thor faced a more monstrous Troll than Ulik—while Sif is taken from him!

STRANGE TALES #154: The gloves are off! It's Fury vs. the savage strength of Hydra's deadly Dreadnought! And, what's poor Dr. Strange going to do when Umar brutally kills the helpless Clea!

SUSPENSE #87: Iron Man faces one of the most macabre villains of all time—the Mole Man—as ol' Shell-Head has his most glorious failure! Meanwhile, Captain America has the fight of his life—or is it, his death?

ASTONISH #89: Never has the Sub Mariner scared a more daringly different victory! But, the Hulk is forced to battle the most powerful foe of all—the unearthly Stranger!

SGT. FURY #39: The Nazis have a new super-weapon which may turn the tide of battle, and it's up to Nick and his howlin' heroes to destroy it—while Dino Manelli's combat career hangs in the balance!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #7: The fabulous Fantastic Four! The invincible Iron Man! The dynamic Dr. Strange! The incredible Hulk! Never before have so many fans received so much for so little!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #7: The original Human Torch and Sub-Mariner—plus more Golden Age goodies with the one and only Captain America! And, just for good measure, three far-out fantasy favorites!

MARVEL TALES #7: Spidey—Thor—the Human Torch—and the wistful, wonderful Wasp! All in one mag—the biggest bargain since the Oklahoma Land Rush!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Greg Flothe, Tacoma, Wash.
William Bailey, Taylor, Mich.
Mike Hembra, Woban, Mass.
George Berman, Revere, Mass.
Robert Kaessel, Rochester, N. Y.
Howard Luedtke, Augusta, Wisc.
Larry Cross, Tustin, Calif.
Dean Cetrano, Lombard, [illegible]
Arnold Glass, Forest Hills, N. Y.
Tommy Mahler, Bloomington, Ind.
Jack Eloff, Midwest City, Okla.
Harold L. Adams, Bowling Green, Ky.
Robert Main, Ottawa, Ont.
Jay Ellis, Pontiac, Mich.
Gilbert Kent Johnson, Mt. Vernon, Ind.
Thomas Kretsman, Erie, Pa. N. Y.
Gordon Smith Johnson, Mt. Vernon, Ind.
Larry Ream, Augusta, Ga.
Ronald Lee, N. Y. N. Y.
Hector Acevedo, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Tom Adams, Fiorello, Pa.
George Feduska, Houston, Tex.
Jeffrey Cebula, Chicago, Ill.
Bruce Emery, Gloucester, Mass.
Kenneth Heineman, Maumee, Ohio
Steven Fritz, Doraville, Ga.

A BATTY BARRAGE OF BOMBASTIC BULLETINS: BURSTIN' WITH BI-PARTISAN BANTER, BARE-FACED BANALITY, AND UNABASHED BULL!

DIDJA KNOW? The Marvel Super-Heroes Show on TV is seen in far-off Australia, Japan, Uruguay, Canada, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, and even Kalamazoo! (Of course none of these exotic places mentioned are far-off if you happen to *live* there—but, we're sure you get the idea!) As for the candid, capricious comments of our cavortin' critics-at-large—it seems that most merry Marvelites think it's a blast—and they're relieved that our crazy cartoons are reasonably true to the spirit of the mags themselves. As for us, we're going batty trying to keep up with all the shows. In some cities the program is presented five nights a week during the prime-time evening hours. In other cities it is on the air three nights a week—and in some it's shown during the afternoons. Some channels feature their own M.C.s introducing the cartoons while some just put our fabulous little fables on the air without any other whoop-de-do. As for the ratings, we've learned that in most of the key cities where the show is presented, it's been clobbering all the opposition—thanks, no doubt, to the support of loyal Marvel-man everywhere! By the way, we still receive some mail from desperate devotees in areas where Marvel Super-Heroes is not yet televised, asking how they can compel their local channels to get with it. Since we're in the business of producing comic mags, and the TV end is something as new to us as it is to you, we can only suggest that those of you whose cities are still Marvel Super-Hero-less write to your favorite local channels and try to make 'em see the error of their ways! Although, at the rate TV stations thruout the free world are hopping on the madcap Marvel band wagon, there may not be any culturally underprivileged cities left by the time this meritorious message sees print! And now—one last important point: If you've any caterwaulsmic comments about the show—anything you like or loathe, send 'em on to your local station! Simply introduce yourself as one of Marvel's fabulous fans and pour it on, man! Just as your letters have been a truly vital factor in maintaining the quality of the mag you're now reading, so will they help to make our Marvel Super-Heroes Show the kind of TV fare you want it to be! If you like the show's announcer, or think he's for the birds—if you wanna discuss the hour at which it's televised, or the manner in which it's presented, or even if you just wanna write and say "Face Front!", take pen in hand and DO it, tiger—your local channel will love hearin' from you, and your Bullpen buddies won't have ta worry about you becoming inhibited! And now—on to other equally earth-shattering items.

DIDJA KNOW? Genial GENE COLAN bought himself a motorcycle a short while ago and chewed our ears off telling us how great it was. A few days later he came to the Bullpen with a couple of bandaged elbows and a sheepish expression. Today, he's riding around in a swingy little sedan once again, leaving the cycle bit for guys like Peter Parker and his ilk! After all, Spidey doesn't have to worry about his drawing hand!

DIDJA KNOW? Speaking of bandages 'n stuff, someone over at Brand Echh must be sticking pins in a Marvel doll! Just a few weeks ago, Larrupin' LARRY LIEBER (Ol' Rawhide Kid himself) had to pick up an art eraser and suddenly sprained his sacroiliac when he straightened up! It meant a week of bed-rest for luckless Larry while ol'-Rawhide had to tend for himself. Then, we no sooner got our little invalid on his feet again than *whammo*, Wild BILL EVERETT did practically the same thing to *his* sacroiliac while stepping off a bus! Bill is great on submarines, bucking broncos, and surf-boards—but those ordinary, slow-moving buses present a problem. Anyway, Mr. Sub-Mariner was laid up for a week while the rest of us spent our time making sure our hospitalization policies are all paid up! You never know it was so dangerous producing comics, eh?

DIDJA KNOW? When Marvel hires a new art associate, we don't kid around—we get our money's worth! Step up and meet JOHNNY VERPOORTEN, our newest Bullpen backup man. Jumbo John is six feet, six inches tall, and tips the scales at a mere 290 pounds! (He thinks we latched onto him to do artwork for us—but wait'll he sees the costume we're making for him! All we have to do is trick him into it, and we'll have a new, ready-made super-hero to unleash upon mankind!)

DIDJA KNOW? Rascally ROY THOMAS just let the cat out of the bag, admitting that he gave up a scholarship to George Washington University just to write for Marvel! He would have studied world events at G.W.U., and might have ended up becoming a diplomat! However, knowing how the ol' rapscallion shoots his mouth off, he might also have accidentally started World War III—so, we figure mighty Marvel has saved humanity once more by keeping Mr. T. chained to his typewriter.

DIDJA KNOW? Jolly JACK KIRBY'S ears must be really burning. Every comics mag fan has his own personal favorite among all the artists employed by all the different companies—but, when it comes to the opinion of the pro's themselves—when it comes to naming the ARTISTS' ARTIST, there isn't even a contest! Every time the conversation here at the Bullpen gets around to artwork (and what ELSE is there to talk about?), you should hear the top men in the field lower their voices when the name of King Kirby comes up. It's generally agreed that, when you talk of super-hero illustration, of action drawing, of imaginative conceptions; of dynamic, double-barreled drama; Marvel's many-faceted master simply has no peer! There is hardly a pro pencil-pusher in the field today who hasn't been influenced by Jack's mammoth, muscle-packed style—or by the unbelievably shattering impact of his storytelling. Don't be embarrassed, Jack—this is just Stan's cornball way of telling you that it's been a ball all these years, pal—and the best is still ahead!

THE WRAP-UP!—We're plumb outta room, so hang loose and face front! Life's a swingin' symphony, and we don't wantcha to miss a note of it! 'Nuff said!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SPIDER-MAN #47: We can't wait till you see Jazzy Johnny Romita's version of Kraven the Hunter! And, remember the Green Goblin? Well—

AVENGERS #38: Cap absent on leave, the Black Widow behind the Bamboo Curtain—and now, the fateful challenge of the peerless Prince of Power—Hercules!

X-MEN #30: Our marvelous mutants face the wondrous wizardry—or is it the super-scientific genius—of a foe aptly named . . the Warlock!

DAREDEVIL #26: At last—the secret identity of the Masked Marauder revealed—plus the reappearance of the sensational, sinister, startling Stiltman!

THOR #136: See the God of Thunder battle the unbearable Ulik for the life of stunning Sif! And, wait'll you meet up with the mysterious, awesome Orika!

STRANGE TALES #155: Nick Fury faces his [illegible] S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent As to Dr. Strange the only way he can save Clea—is to woo her!

SUSPENSE #86: You'll never forget Iron Man's last-ditch combat with the Mole Man's legions! And, can Bucky really be alive again, as Cap battles Power Man and the Swordsman?

ASTONISH #90: The Sub-Mariner faces his most desperate do-or-die battle against the menace known as Byrrah! And, speaking of desperate, wait'll you see who the Hulk is up against!

SGT. FURY #40: Everybody's favorite Howlers set out to rescue a leader of the famous French Underground—only to find themselves caught in a deadly trap!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #8: The F.F.! Ol' Shellhead! The Master of the Mystic Arts! And, the Jolly Green Goliath himself! Watta way to start the new year!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #7: The original Human Torch and Sub-Mariner—plus more Golden Age goodies with the one and only Captain America! And, just for good measure, three far-out fantasy favorites!

MARVEL TALES #7: Spidey—Thor—the Human Torch!—and the wistful, wonderful Wasp! And, one mag—the biggest bargain since the Oklahoma Land Rush!

Let's meet 20 more M.M.M.S. members!

Geo. Morgan, Bellevue, Ohio
[illegible], Detroit, Mich.
Gordon Bryon, Nashville, Tenn.
John Harwood, Lexington, Mass.
Dan Kearney, Hazel Park, Mich.
Leo Mascinck, Edmonton, Alta.
Wade Hendsee, [illegible], Nova Scotia
[illegible], Atlanta
G. Hutchens, Yanklnville, N. C.
[illegible], Dallas, Tex.
Pat Burridge, [illegible], Michael Altobello, Phila., Pa.
[illegible], Onaping, Ont.
Billy Bloom, [illegible], Thomas McDermott, [illegible], James Miller, Jr., Phila., Pa.
[illegible], Tulsa, Okla.
Gilbert Cochran, [illegible], Phil Haddesheimer, Lakewood, Ohio
[illegible], Dayton, Ohio
Chris Constantin, [illegible], [illegible], Tammy Kaigere, Chicago, [illegible], Steamboat, Nev.

A PROFOUND POTPOURRI OF PERPLEXING PRONOUNCEMENTS AND PREPOSTEROUS PHILOSOPHY, ALL PORTENDING PRACTICALLY NOTHING!

ITEM! Notice anything different about this page? We decided to omit our "Mighty Marvel Checklist" and see if anyone will miss it! We figure you can easily find out what we're featuring in our other mags by merely looking at the covers, or reading the "coming attractions" panel at the end of each of the letters pages. But, if you feel life isn't worth living without the missing column, let us know, and we'll bring it back for you! Fair 'nuff? Okay, now that that's out of the way —

ITEM! Didja hear about our big junket to Hollywood last November? STAN (The Man) LEE and Cheerful CHIP GOODMAN zipped out to the coast to confer with GRANTRAY-LAWRENCE, the studio which produces the MARVEL SUPER-HEROES show. While Chip discussed contracts, credits and various other cerebral celluloid coast-side stories our leader had the time of his life poking around behind the scenes and seeing how the merry Marvel masterpieces are adapted to the screen! It was really a ball — and we still haven't been able to get the sunglasses or beret away from ol' Smiley!

ITEM! We need help! You've got to give us the answer to the most burning question of the day! We get a zillion letters a week asking about Honest IRVING FORBUSH, the world's most famous non-entity! Now, our problem is this — would you like to see a picture of Honest Irv — or is it more fun to let him remain an unknown enigma? [illegible] We kinda hope you'll go for the shadowy answer. We kinda hope you'll be content to let Honest remain a mystery ... because if we should ever actually have to dig up a picture of him, then we'll really be in a jam!

ITEM! Here's more agonizing addenda on the blood-curdling Brand Echh controversy! We're constantly receiving letters and phone calls taking us to task for not striking back at one of our largest competitors due to the fact that their references to us in their own mags are seem to be getting nastier and nastier. (Naturally we have to take our fans' word for this, because we hardly ever read those mags!) Anyway, since we haven't nearly enough space to print all the letters we've received dealing with this monumental matter, we've taken some excerpts from a few and put 'em all together, like this —

> Dear Marvel, when you guys refer to Brand Echh, you mean ALL your competitors. But, there's one outfit which takes it personally. It's a shame they're so self-conscious and pitifully aware of their own shortcomings. But now they've stooped to attacking you personally. They've claimed in their letters columns that you don't write all your own stories — they've ridiculed and parodied your most successful characters ... they've taken the name of your company and poked fun at it. They haven't even sense enough to realize they're just hurting themselves, because the readers are clever enough to know that you're just clowning around while they're acting like [illegible]

Well, all we can say in answer is — there are many talented guys and gals employed by our various competitors. A good many of them have worked for us in the past, and some may, hopefully be back working for us again in the future. We have both respect and affection for the hard-working artists and writers throughout this hectic industry of ours, and would never knowingly, by word or deed, wish to put them down. The True Believers amongst you — and that includes all our rabid readers — know full well that we find it hard to take anything too seriously — and we're prone to make OURSELVES the butt of our jokes nine times out of ten. We've gotten a kick out of the funnin' and teasin' with Brand Echh, thinking of it as a good-natured rivalry which you could enjoy sharing with us. However, if we've ruffled any feelings we're truly sorry. We're really not mad at anybody except the hambone who said we don't write all our own stories! We almost wish he were right — then maybe we would not have these bags under our eyes from all those sleepless nights hunched over our typewriter! And that, tiger — is that!

THE WRAP UP! Let's close with a few personal items about our own Marvel madmen. ITEM: We've known Jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA for years, but it wasn't till last week that we found out ol' Ring-A-Ding is a volunteer fireman out on Long Island! ITEM, If you think that art and production are Jolly SOLLY BRODSKY'S only talents, take it from us — don't ever play poker with 'im! Hooo boy! ITEM: Didja know that Fearless FRANKIE GIACOIA, who's just about the best inker this side of Da Vinci, is also as good a penciller as you can find?

And one of these days, if we can ever yank the paint brush outta his hand, we'll prove it to you! ITEM: If STAN (The Man) LEE and JACK (King) KIRBY happen to meet in the street, they might not recognize each other! The two characters have been so busy lately that they haven't seen each other in weeks. Can you imagine producing sensational strips like theirs by collaborating over the phone? Well, you better believe it! ITEM: Bet you didn't know that Wondrous WERNER ROTH worked for the Bullpen over a decade ago, when he did a way-out western hero named The Apache Kid! Anyone remember that far back? ITEM: Not only is Darlin' DICK AYERS as talented an artist as you can find but he never ceases to amaze us with his speed! Slick Dick can pencil a page almost as fast as you can read it — and he can ink it even faster! ITEM: One of these days we'll see if we can get GIL (Sugar Lips) KANE to race the Darlin' One in completing a strip, 'cause Garrulous Gil is also a S.D.F.C. (Speed Demon, First Class!) Say! How about a drawing race for charity? Wouldn't THAT be something! ITEM: It's a wonder Dazzlin' DON HECK is still talking to us! Wait'll you read THE AVENGERS this month and count how many superheroes the poor guy hadda draw in that one panel! But, y' know somethin'? He was never greater! (Okay, Donnie — now you owe [illegible]

Well, that's it for now, folks! Keep writing, keep reading, keep loving Marvel and keep lovin' us! We'll be back before you know it with more of the same. (Aww, quit groaning! You only have to read it — we have to WRITE it!) And cheer up, Roy, Flo, Marie, Bill, Larry, Gary, etc. We'll mention you next time! Hang loose, Marvelites—victory's [illegible]

HERE'S A BRAND NEW LIST OF
MARVEL TV STATIONS
WHICH WE KNOW YOU'LL WANNA MEMORIZE BY HEART!
(You never know when there'll be a test!)

NEW YORK, N. Y., WOR-Channel 9
DETROIT, MICH., CKLW-Channel 9
BOSTON, MASS., WNAC-Channel 7
LOS ANGELES, CALIF., KHJ-Channel 9
MEMPHIS, TENN., WHBQ-Channel 13
CHICAGO, ILL., WGN-Channel 9
DENVER, COLO., KWGN-Channel 9
PHILADELPHIA, PA., KYW-Channel 3
WASHINGTON, D.C., WTTG-Channel 5
BUFFALO, N. Y., WKBW-Channel 7
PROVIDENCE, R. I., WPRO-Channel 12
ALBANY, N. Y., WTEN-Channel 10
HUNTINGTON, W. VA., WSAZ-Channel 3
NEW ORLEANS, LA., WVUE-Channel 12
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, KCPX-Channel 4
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, WAPA
BALTIMORE, MD., WBAL-Channel 11
CARACAS, VENEZUELA, PROVENTEL
ROCHESTER, N. Y., WHEC-TV-Channel 10
SAGINAW, MICH., WNEM-Channel 5
TOKYO, JAPAN, TBS
PORTLAND, ME., WGAN-Channel 13
ST. LOUIS, MO., KSD-Channel 5
SYRACUSE, N. Y., WHEN-Channel 6
SPRINGFIELD, MASS., WHYN-Channel 40
LITTLE ROCK, ARK., KATV-Channel 7
TAMPA, FLA., WTVT-Channel 13
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., WCCO-Channel 4
PALM BEACH, FLA., WPTV-Channel 5
MIAMI, FLA., WCKT-Channel 7
JACKSONVILLE, FLA., WFGA-Channel 12
RICHMOND, VA., WTVR-Channel 6
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, KENS-Channel 5
ATLANTA, GA., WSB-Channel 2
KALAMAZOO, MICH., WKZO-Channel 3
AVOCA, PA., WNEP-Channel 16
MANILA, PHILIPPINES, ABS-CBN
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, WMT-TV
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., KTVU
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, PROARTEL
MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY,
MONTE CARLO TV
HARRISONBURG, VA., WSVA Channel 3
MILWAUKEE, WISC., WVTV-Channel 18
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, TELEVISION CORP
WICHITA, KANSAS, KAKE-Channel 10
SIOUX FALLS, S. D., KELO-Channel 11
MADISON, WISC., WKOW-Channel 27
WAUSAU, WISC., WAOW-Channel 9

And there are more being added every month, natch!

Let's meet 26 more MMMS members!

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

DAZZLING DATA, DIZZY DISPATCHES, AND DANGEROUS DECLARATIONS OF RATHER DUBIOUS DISTINCTION!

ITEM: As though we don't have enough mags to publish now, all you madcap MMMS ers have already received the first great issue of our newest and our most exclusive publication—THE MERRY MARVEL MESSENGER—mailed free of charge to all loya card-carrying members of the nuttiest fan club in history! And now another daring development: We've finally changed the membership kit that all MMMS ers receive as soon as we've cajoled them out of their hard-earned initiation fee! We've added goodier goodies than ever, just to prove that Marvel's always on the move! (We don't know where we're going, but we're on the way!) And, in our usual blundering big-hearted manner, we're not forgetting you former members either! Any of you who'd like to switch onto our newest kit will be able to do so at a reduced rate—a fact we offer it absolutely at cost to those who are already followers in the footsteps of Fu Bush. But now it's time for other titanic tidbits—so, ever onward!

ITEM: This is what you've been waiting for! (We hope!) The first official scoop on our king-sized SPECIALS for this summer! We're gonna have a half-dozen super-deluxe bonanzas once more—but you'll find a couple of surprises among them. The first two titles will be MILLIE THE MODEL (which we toss in each year for your sisters and gal friends), and SGT. FURY AND HIS WHATCHAMACALLEMS. A month later, we'll follow up with (and these are the surprises!) DAREDEVIL and THE AVENGERS! Then, while you're still reelin', THE FANTASTIC FOUR and SPIDER-MAN will boot you outta your tree! We're omitting THOR this year because he'll be featured in THE AVENGERS, and that gives us a chance to launch the king-sized DAREDEVIL! Now here's the next bit of exciting news—each mag will feature all—or nearly all—original material—much more than last year's Specials, or the year before. We're gonna fill 'em up with feature pages, pin-ups, and everything else you've been clamoring for! However, one important word of caution. Remember how difficult our Specials were to find on last summer's crowded newsstands? Well, this time play it safe—tell your newsdealer right now to reserve the 11 ies you want—to put them away for you as soon as he receives 'em. You'll be glad you did, tiger!

ITEM: It looks like we did it again! Another king-sized goof! Remember last ish when we omitted the Marvel Checklist? We thought we'd wait to learn if anyone missed it. But, we never even got a chance to wait for your mail! The men at the printing plant—the gang in the mail-room—the messengers from the corner lunchroom—and everyone else who happened to be within earshot, all set up a howl that could be heard clear over to Brand Echh! It seems that we had merely tossed away one of their favorite features. So, if everyone else feels that way about it, we figure you do, too! Ergo, if you'll glance at the side of this page, you'll see the ol' Checklist back again, and our eager beaver editorial staff more red faced than ever!

ITEM: We've just enough space left to welcome Dandy DAN ADKINS to the blustern' Bullpen. Dan's the fellow who drew the cover of X-MEN #31, as well as the Sub-Mariner yarn for ASTONISH #92. (Run, do not walk—it's now on sale!) If his style reminds you of another former Marvel-man, it's because Dan has worked with him, sometimes anonymously, for quite a while . . . but now the dandy one is on his own, and we have a hunch he's headed right for the top of Marvel stardom. We also wanna welcome OGDEN WHITNEY and GEORGE BELL back to the fold and say hello to HERB TRIMPE (pronounced Trimp-y), another fabulous fledgling. You'll be seeing the aforementioned stalwarts represented more frequently as time goes by—you lucky devils you!

ITEM: We've received a zillion letters (would ya believe a couple?) asking us to have Our Leader do an editorial on this page each ish in order to bring the Marvel Message to all True Believers. Hence, in obvious obeisance to thy slightest wishes, O Keepers of the Flame, we hereby inaugurate a forensic new feature, to be known forevermore as:

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Hang loose, heroes! Now that I've got your ear, I'm not lettin' go! Our first interminabulating topic is gonna be "The Marvel Philosophy." Whenever I get together with any of you frantic ones, the first question posed is usually "What are you fellas really trying to DO in your mags? What message are you pushin'? Is the whole Marvel series just a big put-on, or are you trying to TELL us something? Are you actually serious about your characters—do you really believe in 'em—? Etc.!" Well, just between us, we believe in our cavortin' characters a lot more than we believe in some people we know, and we do have a motive—a purpose—behind our mags! That purpose is, plain and simple—to entertain you! We think we've found the best formula of all—we merely create the type of fanciful yarns that we ourselves enjoy—and, if we like 'em, you oughtta like 'em, too; after all, you're our kinda people! Now then, in the process of providing off-beat entertainment, if we can also do our bit to advance the cause of [illegible] and to toss a little sarcasm at you in the process—that won't break our collective heart—one tiny bit! That's it, pussycat! Thanks for listenin'!

THE WRAP-UP. That sinks it for now, frantic one. But before we cut out, we wanna remind you to drop Stan a line and tell him what you'd like him to talk about on this page each month. Otherwise, he may not be able to think of a thing to say. (That'll be the day!) So, till we make the scene together again, face front, hang loose, and be good to each other. The human race may not be perfect, but it's the only one we've got! 'Nuff said.

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #63: How do you save yourself from an unearthly being who is a walking, living bomb-burst? That's what the F.F. have to find out in the few remaining seconds before Blastaar and the Sandman wipe them out!

AVENGERS #40: Ever wonder how the sensational Sub-Mariner would fare in pitched battle with the new Avengers? Well, hold onto your MMMS buttons, 'cause this is the month when you find out—and the answers really gonna pop your cork!

X-MEN #32: Can anything stop the revitalized, rampaging Juggernaut—especially now that he's added Professor X's mental powers to his own? That's what the hard-pressed X-Men must learn—or die!

DAREDEVIL #28. This is really gonna grab ya! You'll meet DD as a college lecturer! And, you'll see his first run-in with an actual alien invader—so realistically presented that you'll think you're actually there!

THOR #140: The new, unexpected villain you've been hoping for! We call him the Stimulord, but we've a hunch that you'll refer to him as The Growing Man—and you'll refer to him often! Lots of Doc Blake in this, too.

STRANGE TALES #157: Fury and Supreme Hydra slug it out—while the fate of a planet hangs in the balance! As for Dr. Strange, wouldja believe "The End of the Ancient One"? By the Shades of the Shadowy Demons—don't miss it!

SUSPENSE #90: Once again Iron Man has a life-and-death showdown with the only foe who can effortlessly destroy him—but, why do we call it "The Golden Ghost"? And wait'll you see Captain America turn traitor—because of the Red Skull!

ASTONISH #92: The startled Sub-Mariner meets one of his strangest new challenges when he is forced to battle "It, the Silent One"! As for the Hulk, you won't wanna miss the start of a new and terrifying chapter in his life!

SGT. FURY #42: The bombastic Bull McGiveney leads your favorite howlin' heroes in one of the most daring raids of the War—while Nick Fury and two other Commandos go AWOL! Why? You'll find out—and how!—in this titanic ish!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #9: The fabulous F.F.—Iron Man—The Hulk—Dr. Strange! And, as an extra bonus, the origin of the Watcher! No, no, don't thank us, frantic one—just buy a dozen! 'Nuff said?

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #8: A 22-page block-bustin' battle between the Sub-Mariner and the original Human Torch—from the Golden Age to you! Plus, a Captain America classic and three phantasmagorical fantasy epics!

MARVEL TALES #8: Spidey—Thor—the Human Torch—and the wondrously winsome Wasp! All in one magnificent mag—the biggest bargain since Macy's opened its basement! (Hooo boy!)

Let's meet 26 more M M M.S. members!

Stan Kenah Bethany, W. Va.	Dennis Cohen Dallas, Texas	David G. Gibson Gardenia, Calif.	Bruce Lux Bement, Ill.	Socarro Contreras Visalia, Calif.	John Cox Kitchener, Ont.	Paul L. Chadwick Omaha, Neb.
[illegible]	Randy Harris Wichita Falls, Texas	Bill Keller Tonawanda, N. Y.	Jeffrey Levine Bronx, N. Y.	James D. Morrison Gunter A.F.B., Ala.	Larry Harris Wichita, Kansas	Richard Meneito Brooklyn, N. Y.
[illegible]	Greg Lyman Stamford, Conn.	Wallace Faison Dendron, Va.	Craig McIlspaugh Wichita, Kansas	Mark Mease Centerville, Iowa	Hugh J. McTighe New York, N. Y.	Howard Litwak Allentown, Pa.
[illegible]	Natalie Fernandez Wahiawa, Hawaii	Robert Kiep Formosa, Ont.	Dick Higgins Boston, Mass.	Nels Neches Brooklyn, N. Y.	Burton Kansmore Sudbury, Ont.	Terry Hughes Windsor, Mo.

MORE MIXED-UP MADNESS FROM MARVEL'S MIGHTY MASTERS OF MYSTICISM, MAGNIFICENCE, AND MISINFORMATION!

ITEM: Even though all the details aren't in yet, this one is too hot to keep under wraps any longer! It's what you've all been demanding—a full half-hour TV show for each of Marvel's top two mags: The fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR, and the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! And dig this—both shows will be phantasmagorically presented over the ABC network, in full animation and colossal color! Yep, you heard it right! The F.F. starring in their own spectacular show—and Spidey starring in his own tintinnabulating thriller—both coming your way this fall! Watch this page for more exciting info in the niches to come—we'll fill you in on who's producing 'em, what type of stories will be used, the exact date and time, etc. But in the meanwhile, who SAYS this isn't the Marvel Age of World Take-Over!

ITEM: We've just gotta tell you this! The whole belly Bullpen is bustin' with pride over the way our mags are being received overseas in the United Kingdom! Affable Al Wallace, talented editor of Odhams Press, publishers of SMASH, WHAM, and POW, three of England's most famous and best-selling weekly comics mags, jetted in from London recently just to wrap up a deal with Marvel whereby world famous Odhams will become our showcase in the United Kingdom, featuring all the best of our super-hero epics! (And, as every True Believer knows, we've only got the best—there isn't any worst!) So, a swingin' salute to our pal Al and all our block-bustin' British boosters! Glad to have you aboard, guys!

ITEM: This one's really gonna knock you outta your tree! You know all the zillions of no-prizes we've been tossing around for years? Well, since a no-prize is really just that—a no prize—many of our time-honored winners have asked how they can prove to posterity that they've ever actually won one! Therefore, from now on, every winner of what has become the most coveted non-award in history will receive a little something to prove he's really won! What is it? You'll find out, tiger—soon as you win one!

ITEM: Remember the ruggedly realistic artwork of Jolly JOHN SEVERIN when he illustrated some of the earlier Agent of Shield strips? Well, Johnny's returning to the fold once more after having finally seen the light! Can you guess which strip he'll soon be doing? No, it won't be Shield this time—jaunty JIM STERANKO is doing such a magnificent job writing and drawing the saga of Nick Fury's friendly little followers that we just can't bear the thought of switching him to another strip. However we do have a mag which has been drawn by the same Marvel master for a few years now, and ol' Sev will soon be taking it over, since Darlin' DICK AYERS seems to have an unexpected hit on his hands with the surprise sensation of the year—none other than the mysterious GHOST RIDER! Also, d'ja notice that Groovy GARY FRIEDRICH is now writing SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING WHATCHAMACALLEMS, having replaced Rascally ROY THOMAS, who's become almost as busy as our leader lately. Gary should do a great job on Fury's fanatics, having listened to so many war yarns from his dad, and so many exaggerated exploits from Stan himself. By the way, don't worry too much about Rollickin' Roy—he's got enough work to keep him off the streets these days, what with authoring AVENGERS, X-MEN, SUB-MARINER, and excuse notes for Honest Irv! (He claims that Smiley gives him the hard ones to write, while he keeps the easier ones for himself—Yeah, the "easy" ones—like SPIDEY, THOR, FANTASTIC FOUR, DAREDEVIL, etc.! Hee Boy!)

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

While we're waiting for your letters telling what you'd like us to editorialize about, we thought you'd get a charge out of this note which we just received:

Dear Bullpen! Enough! I have sat idle too long! I have watched the MMMS turn into disorganized chaos. (And that's the worst kind!) As a solution, I suggest we have some officers. By buying his first Marvel mag, a fan is automatically entitled to the rank of RFO (Real Frantic One). His first published letter elevates him to QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer). A no-prize raises him to TB (True Believer). Each additional no-prize raises one level. From JHC (Junior Howling Commando) to RH (Resident Hulk) to AAT (Associate Assistant Thing) and finally to the penultimate, the utmost status a fan can attain, MM (Marvelite Maximus)! Naturally, the artists all have the rank of DDD (Definitely Dizzy Doodlers), the editorial assistants are IPR (Illiterate Proof Readers), art associates are VOD (Victims of Doodlers), the letters are IWP (Indefatigable Word Placers), and Stan himself is at the summit—MEO. Marvel's Earthbound Odin). Each person would use his title at the start of his name—as I've done. (Signed—) RFO Mark Evanier, 10418 Tennessee Ave., Los Angeles, Cal. 90064

Y'know something, gang—we kinda dig Mark's idea. Let us know how it hits you and maybe we can really get the thing rolling! Fair 'nuff?

THE WRAP-UP: Looks as though we were more long-winded than usual this ish—which means we've like run out of the space needed to give you additional scoop about this summer's coming King Size Specials! But, don't despair, dauntless one—just hoard your next six two-bit pieces—try not to squander them on luxuries like food and clothing—and we'll clue you in on our Specials next ish! Till then, hang loose heroes—the good times are just beginning!

('Nuff said!)

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #64: Once again, the fabulous FF introduces a titanic threat that ushers in a strange, alien danger, giving us a hint of the maddening menace to come, as we meet—the Sentry!

AVENGERS #41: So you don't think there's any malevolent menace that'd stand a chance against the Avengers, now that Hercules is around? Well, don't look now—but here comes . . . Dragon Man!

X-MEN #33: Either the Juggernaut or the awesome Outcast could give our merry mutants the battle of their lives—so what're they gonna do when they face both at the same time?

DAREDEVIL #29: It's finally happened! In full view of the most dangerous gang of thugs in the city, DD is actually unmasked! It's for those who like their action fast and furious!

THOR #141: We could have called this one "The Mobster and the Monster!" but we didn't! We called it "The Wrath of Replicus!" Instead—and you'll never forget the rampaging reason why!

STRANGE TALES #158: The story is called "Final Encounter"—but does that mean the destruction of Hydra—or of Nick Fury? Meanwhile, Doc Strange has his own hands full with the Living Tribunal!

SUSPENSE #91: A new invention! A new villain! A new surprise! All that, and Iron Man, too! As for Cap—see the end of his bludgeoning battle with the Red Skull in "The Last Defeat!"

ASTONISH #93: Namor faces a suboceanic showdown with IT, the Silent One! But, we shall say no more—we need say no more about the Hulk, except to say—he battles the Silver Surfer!

SGT. FURY #49: You'll come out of your bag when Fury's frenetic fighters hit the burning sands of Africa—and run smack-dab into the newest super-weapon in the arsenal of Rommel, the Desert Fox!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #9: The fabulous F.F.—Iron Man—The Hulk—Dr. Strange! And, as an extra bonus, the origin of the Watcher! No, no, don't thank us, frantic one—just buy a dozen! 'Nuff said!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #9: The origin of the original Human Torch—exactly as it first appeared! Plus, the Golden Age greatness of Cap and Subby—and three way-out wonder tales!

MARVEL TALES #9: Spidey—Thor—Torchy and the Wasp! The biggest block-bustin' bargain this side of Honest Irv's Penny Arcade!

COMING SOON!
FACE FRONT! WATCH FOR THE MADDEST MAGAZINE OF ALL!
WHO SAYS A COMIC BOOK ARE FUN COMIC?
NOT BRAND ECHH
THE NEWEST BOMBSHELL SURPRISE FROM MIGHTY MARVEL--THE HOUSE OF IDEAS!

FABULOUS FACTS AND FRIVOLOUS FABLES FOR FRANTIC FANS, FAITHFUL FRIENDS, AND FIENDISH FOES!

BOMBSHELL! This is it! The news you've been waiting for! The best-kept secret since D-Day! The newest, most exciting, most daring mag that mighty Marvel has ever attempted is now on sale! (At least, it was this morning. By now, judging by the undercurrent of excitement and eager anticipation among Marveldom, it's probably nearly sold out!) The name? BRAND ECHH! The purpose? If everyone else is determined to imitate Marvel, we figure that your ol' Bullpen can do a better, nuttier, funnier, more exciting job of poking fun at the [illegible] and do! But why call it BRAND ECHH? Because we've been steadily reserving those two words the most famous title in comicdom—so we figured we might as well cash in on the publicity ourselves! Besides, think how it'll rock the competition! We guarantee you've never read a mag like it! It's jam-packed with Marvel's mightiest super-heroes, written and drawn by Marvel's top talent, and loaded with block-busting bellylaughs in every incredible panel! It's the mag you never expected to see—created by the only cavortin' crew of creative cornballs who could have done it! It'll be a priceless collectors' item before you're one week older, and we kid thee not! So, take a tip from your blushin' Bullpen—if you haven't yet latched onto our first unforgettable, unforgivable issue, don't even finish this page till you've dashed to your nearest newsstand and lassoed a copy! Otherwise, how'll you know what all the excitement's about? And, to make sure you don't forget here's a subtle little reminder: Don't be a wreck—buy BRAND ECHH! BRAND ECHH! BRAND ECHH! BRAND ECHH! BRAND ECHH! Oh, and before we forget—the name of the mag is BRAND ECHH!

SPECIAL! Here's your fill-in on Marvel's line-up of Special spectaculars for this summer. They're 25¢ apiece—king-sized—and contain [illegible] ORIGINAL stories and features just as you've been requesting! The first two to go on sale, in June, will be SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS SPECIAL, featuring a sensational surprise, in which Col. Fury, the head of Shield, reunites his Howlers for a deadly mission in Viet Nam! It's probably the most genuinely explosive battle saga of the year! Also, we blushingly admit that our MILLIE THE MODEL SPECIAL (for your sisters and gal friends) will feature an earth-shattering yarn dealing with the long-awaited marriage of Millie's friend, Toni! (How does THAT grab ya, tiger?) Then, while you're still reeling, we'll toss two more sensations at you in July—the DAREDEVIL SPECIAL, in which the Man Without Fear faces five (count 'em, five!) of his most deadly enemies in one of the greatest original action-epics of the century! You'll also see a whole kaboodle of fabulous features and pin-ups, as only Stan and Gene could create them! But, hang loose, Hallowed Ones—there's more! Our second king-size title will be THE AVENGERS SPECIAL, jam-packed with the new Avengers—the old Avengers—guest stars such as Hercules, Nick Fury, and the startling Sub-Mariner — all fussin' and fightin' together in a 49-page-long original yarn which'll knock you outta your tree! But, does majestic Marvel stop there? Uh-uh! We're only beginning! In August, we'll present the fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL, together with the senses-shattering SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL! But, let's wait till next ish before we tell you what they'll be featuring—we don't wanna drive you into a state of shock too soon!

TV TIME! Only another few months till Marvel makes the network! Starting in September, the F.F. and Spidey will be presented border-to-border and coast-to-coast by the American Broadcasting Company! Our fascinatin' foursome will be produced by Hanna-Barbera, while your favorite web-slinger will be filmed at the Universal City studios of Grantray-Lawrence—with both half-hour shows being in full animation and glowing color! We'll announce the premiere date real soon, but while you're waiting, be sure your TV set is in perfect condition—we wouldn't want you to miss a minute of 'em!

MMMS MADNESS! Here's the first detailed announcement of the revised Merry Marvel Marching Society Membership Kit which all new members will receive: 1) A brand-new gigantic club pin which is too big to ever lose! 2) An official recording of the toe-tapping MMMS marching song! 3) A set of swingin' stickers, featuring a bunch of Marvel characters and crazy captions! 4) A nutty new note pad! 5) An awesome assortment of magnificent Marvel mini-books! 6) A practically priceless Marvel pencil! 7) An heirloom MMMS certificate, suitable for framing or making paper airplanes! 8) Our merry membership card, destined to become your most treasured possession! All the above goodies, plus the accompanying prestige and glory, will be yours for the ridiculous price of 69¢! And, those of you who are already MMMSers but would like to own the new membership kit, can buy one for the special price of 50¢, which is actually what the whole kaboodle costs us to produce! You'll find a coupon elsewhere in this ish (and probably in the next million issues to come!), so if you miss out on the fun 'n' games, don't blame us! (You know how sensitive we are.)

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

This is as good a place as any to thank you once more for being the most wonderful fans any publishing company ever had! If Marvel is on top of the heap, it's your support that's put us there! If Marvel gives you the type of mags you want, it's your letters that have told us how! And, if Marvel occasionally comes up with a clinker, go hang your head, hero! Whatever we are, you've made us! We've had a lot of laughs together, and a lot of excitement—and the best is still ahead! So face front, frantic one, Marvel's on the march—and we're not taking a step without you! On behalf of the entire batty Bullpen, to True Believers everywhere—we'll never let you down, 'cause you're the ever-lovin' greatest!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags on Sale Right Now!

BRAND ECHH #1: Madness in the Marvel manner! Featuring the Fantastical Four, Dr. Bloom and the Silver Surfer, Sgt. Furious and his Hostile Commandos, an old-time battle between the Human Scorch and the Sunk-Mariner, and other hysterical hits.

SPIDER-MAN #51: Spidey's back in action again, the way you like him best! But this time he's bitten off more than he can chew, as he faces the frightful forces of—the Kingpin!

AVENGERS #42: Hercules dukes it out with the ever-delightful Dragon Man—as Goliath tears into his fightin' fellow Avengers! Talk about smasheroos—this one beats 'em all!

X-MEN #34: Our marvelous mutants get mixed up in one of the strangest wars of all—as Tyrannus and the macabre Mole Man struggle for supremacy far beneath the earth! Hoo boy!

DAREDEVIL #36: We're still not sure how we did it! This one features Thor, the Cobra, Mr. Hyde, and the most dreadful defeat that DD's suffered yet! Don't miss it!

THOR #142: Remember the sensational Super Skrull? Well, he's back again, pitting all the powers of the Fantastic Four against Goldilocks! This one's a real shocker!

STRANGE TALES #159: Nick Fury goes to spy school—and wait'll you see who's playing teacher! Also, Dr. Strange faces an awesome new threat—and a menacing old foe!

SUSPENSE #92: Iron Man battles Half-Face, deep in the vastness of Viet Nam! And, Captain America meets Nick Fury once more, for the start of his most spell-binding adventure!

ASTONISH #94: Sub-Mariner faces a dire double peril, in the wily Gnome . . . and the mountainous Dragorr—while the Incredible Hulk smashes his way towards a world of mystery!

SGT. FURY #44: You demanded it—so we did it! Learn how the hard-hitting Howling Commandos earned their glory-drenched [illegible] on the very first mission under enemy fire! Wah-hoo!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #10: The frankly fabulous F.F.—our own Jolly Green Giant—the incomparable Iron Man—and the warily wondrous Watcher! Is this any way to print a comic book? You bet it is, tiger!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #9: The origin of the original Human Torch—exactly as it first appeared! Plus, the Golden Age greatness of Cap and Subby—and three way-out wonder tales!

MARVEL TALES #9: Spidey—Thor—Torchy—and the Wasp! The biggest block-bustin' bargain this side of Honest Irv's Penny Arcade!

Let's meet 26 more M M M S. members!

George M. Smith [illegible]
Terry Fenwick [illegible]
Brent Leake [illegible]
Dan Hessler, Jr. [illegible]
[illegible]
John La Forgia [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[

AWE-INSPIRING ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR YOU TO YAWN WITH!

ITEM: The time has come! 'Tis the merry month of June, and that means the first two of Marvel's sensational SPECIALS are now on sale! Even as you read these spine-tingling words, the great, action-packed SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS SPECIAL has just hit the newsstands with the shattering impact of a B-52 bomb load! When you realize that it features Nick Fury, in the present, as the full chicken-colonel Director of Shield, reuniting his Howlers for a special mission in Viet Nam, you'll know why we urge you to get your copy TODAY! This one's not gonna be around long! And, in case we forgot to tell you—every story, every feature in this year's king-size sensation is ALL-NEW—ALL-ORIGINAL! Then, just to prove how big-hearted we are, we've also issued a new, queen-sized MILLIE THE MODEL SPECIAL, for your sisters, gal friends, and various other fun-and-fashion buffs! We know you'll be all shook-up to learn that it, too, is on sale now! And, next month, whatever else you do, don't fail to grab the block-bustin' DAREDEVIL SPECIAL and the equally-great AVENGERS SPECIAL! They're both ALL-NEW with ALL-ORIGINAL stories and features—as are the indescribably wonderful FANTASTIC FOUR and SPIDER-MAN SPECIALS which we're bestowing upon you in the following month! Watch these pages for the next two issues to get a more complete rundown on what DD, the AVENGERS, SPIDEY, and the ever-lovin' FF will contain—'cause we're the kinda guys who'll TELL you!

ITEM: We just received a letter that may be of interest to all you Believers who like to save your Marvel mags—so we'll pass it along right now—

> Dear Stan: I have trouble with pages that come loose from too much handling, and have found a way to correct this. Just open the staples and put a piece of transparent tape on the outside cover and in the exact center of the book. Then close the staples again. It preserves the magazine no matter how many times it's read. No more lost pages! –Sincerely, Bud Cavadini, (Cashton, Wisc. 54619).

Many thanks, Bud ol' boy! But just tell us one thing: is it true you're a manufacturer of transparent tape?

ITEM: Once again the-time-differential gap is enough to drive us all batty! Here's why—as we write these deathless phrases, we're just about to send the first issue of our nutty new satire mag BRAND ECHH to the printer. But, by the time you READ this page, Ish #2 is already on sale! We won't receive any mail from you about the mag for another couple of months (our time), but you're probably starting to flood us with your capricious criticism already (your time)!! Anyway, all we're trying to say is—whatever you do, don't dare miss our newest mag—the book that's been called the biggest gamble Marvel—or anyone else—ever attempted! If it isn't a sell-out, everyone we know (including the REAL Brand Echhs) will be saying "We told you so!" And you KNOW how we hate to fall on our faces! (Especially when Irving Forbush is looking!)

ITEM: Speaking of Honest Irv, your letters have been running about a zillion-to-one in favor of us never showing what he looks like! And we don't mind telling you what a relief that is! After all, how do you present a portrait of a naturally neurotic non-entity? (Sounds like a new idea for a no-prize contest, huh?)

ITEM! Wail, looky here! Another letter which you may be interested in—

> Dear Stan: You are making a drastic mistake. Not being content to produce the best-written and best-drawn comics in America, you're allowing Marvel to turn into a fad—due to the tons of merchandise bearing your characters which is on sale all over. If this isn't stopped, Marvel may suffer the fate of all other fads—it may rise in a burst of glory and then fade out until, months from now, Marvel is naught but a memory. Your mags are great enough to stand on their own merit without all the other stuff. Please! I was here when The Marvel Age of Comics began, but I don't want to be here when it ends!—PFC Bruce Long, C-2-1, Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Bruce, buddy: we really appreciate your concern, but we have a feeling the end isn't quite in sight yet. One thing you must have noticed—no matter what novelties and nick-nacks are produced bearing the Marvel imprint—and we think they're all kinda swell—it doesn't in any way affect the stories or artwork in our award-winning mags. For the Merry Ones who enjoy model kits of our characters—or records—or games—or sweatshirts—or coloring books—or almost anything you can name, we've got 'em in abundance. But, for those who are interested solely in the Marvel mags themselves, we're working as hard as ever—and as enthusiastically as ever—to produce the best darned illustrated epics the world has ever seen! Isn't that really all that counts? So long as we can continue turning out the type of thrillers our rollickin' readers enjoy, there's no reason for anyone to become a Marvel dropout! And, the day we start to slip—the day we start giving you less than our best, then we deserve whatever happens! Fair enough?

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

We've said it before and we've gotta say it again! We love your letters! It's a real kick hearing from you! We're overwhelmingly touched by the interest you show and the time you spend writing to us, but please PUH LEESE make your letters shorter. We wouldn't bother asking you this if not for the fact that we honestly read each and every comment you send us, and the mail gets heavier each month. (Which is great! It shows that you're all hangin' loose!) But, the more mail we get, the less time we get to read it. So, from the bottom of our hearts to the top of our weary little bloodshot eyeballs, we beg you, we beseech you—keep your letters down to just one page or less! The notepaper manufacturers may not like it, but it just may allow us a little time to write a story or two between applying our eye-drops! Okay? Thanks, tiger—we knew you'd understand!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags on Sale Right Now!

BRAND ECHH #2: Nuttier and more exciting than ever! Spidey-Man vs. Gnatman and Rotten Knock Furious, Agent of Sheesh, vs. Blunder Agents! Ironed-Man vs. Magnut, Robot-Biter! You've never seen anything like it!

FANTASTIC FOUR #66: Rarely have you thrilled to a more fascinating mystery than the one in store for you now! The Thing's sightless girl friend captured and brought to the strangest place on earth—for what mind-staggering purpose? A real shocker!

AVENGERS #43: See Hercules and Hawkeye fighting behind the Bamboo Curtain! See Quicksilver develop a new, startling super power! See the introduction of the evil Red Guardian! See action as only Marvel can dish it out!

X-MEN #35: When our magnificent mutants get a guest star, we don't kid around! This one features none other than Spider-Man—battling desperately against the savage fury of the X-Men! It's dynamite!

DAREDEVIL #31: Possibly the most sensational of all DD's adventures! Imagine the Man Without Fear minus his super-senses—forced to battle his most deadly foes while he's actually sightless! It's Daredevil's most fateful moment—and when you see the ending—HOOO BOY!

THOR #143: Get set for sheer magnificence as Baldar the Brave and the stunning Sif are pursued to earth by the evil Enchanters—the only arch-foes powerful enough to defy Thor and Odin at the same time! So be it!

STRANGE TALES #160: Nick Fury and his SHIELD stalwarts battle a vociferous new villain during the big block-out of 1965—and with help from Captain America, get! While, after a disastrous defeat at the hands of Mordo, Dr. Strange and the entire earth face obliteration by the Living Tribunal! Talk about mind-snappers!

SUSPENSE #93: See Iron Man suffer his greatest defeat—at the hands of a giant whose true identity will knock you for a loop! As for Captain America, has he finally invaded the lair of A.I.M. to rescue SHIELD's loveliest agent—only to lose her forever!

ASTONISH #95: Wait'll you meet the merciless menace from Skull Island as he tackles Sub-Mariner with his invincible super-submarine! But what of the Hulk? How can he face the threat of a deadly madman's alien weapon when he himself is helpless on the lost planet?

SGT. FURY #49: In one of the most off-beat war sagas of all time the hard-hitting Howlers escape an impossible general's sanction—only to be brought to the brink of disaster by THE WAR LOVER! Nuff Said!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #10: This is the Golden Age gas everyone's been demanding! The All-Winners Squad featuring Captain America, the Human Torch, Sub-Mariner, Miss America, and the Whizzer—in a 43-page action epic destined to become the most talked about reprint of the decade!

MARVEL TALES #10: Spidey vs. Kraven the Hunter; Thor battling it out with Loki; the Human Torch fighting for his life against the Painter of a Thousand Perils—the most frenzied fight card since the opening of Madison Square Garden! Oh, and just to top it off, your big-hearted Bullpen's tossed in another scintillating story by the wonderfully winsome Wasp!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #10: The frankly fabulous F.F. our own Jolly Green Giant—the incomparable Iron Man—and the warily wondrous Watcher! Is this any way to print a comic book? You bet it is, tiger!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Marv Marshall E. Omaha, Neb.	Bonnie Goodwin New York, N.Y.	Craig Barrington [illegible], N.C.	Mark [illegible] [illegible], Calif.	[illegible] [illegible], N.D.	[illegible] [illegible], Texas	[illegible] Lacombe, Mass.
Ken French Toledo, Ohio	John Ray New York, N.Y.	Steve Lords Fort Smith, Ark.	[illegible] Omaha, Neb.	Ronald Jung New York, N.Y.	[illegible] [illegible], Mass.	[illegible] [illegible]
	Rob [illegible] Westbury, N.Y.	Ronny Hayes Kingston, N.Y.	Brad [illegible] Canton, Ohio	Steven [illegible] [illegible], Va.	Mark [illegible] Ridgefield, N.J.	Carlos [illegible] Los Angeles, Calif.
	Paul [illegible] Webster, Mass.	Rodney Rasberry Shreveport, La.	Terry Mitchell Bowie, Texas	Richard Lund N. Bergen, N.J.	John Huddleston Indianapolis, Ind.	Randy Jacobson Rockford, [illegible]

A SAGACIOUS SMATTERING OF SCUTTLEBUTT, SCOOPS, AND SPACE-WASTING SMALL-TALK!

ITEM! This one's gonna flip you outta your crow's nest! Even the amazin' ABC-TV network has come under the spell of Marvel mania! Almost before you know it, they're gonna feature an hour-long, evening TV Special — in full color, natch — to kick off our upcoming weekly FANTASTIC FOUR series! At the time we write these imperishable words, the date hasn't yet been finalized, so whatever you do, keep watching the TV listings in your newspaper — we couldn't bear to have you miss it! Or, if you're the titanic type who takes no chances, you can always drop a line to the president of ABC, at 1330 Ave. of The Americas, New York City, and bug him for the info. Just tell 'im Honest Irving sent you! And, in the meantime — THINK MARVEL!

ITEM! Well, we did it again! Another earth shattering MISTAKE of a magnitude which only your batty Bullpen could achieve! We've been touting the title of our newest and nuttiest sensation, BRAND ECHH, for the past two months — and just realized we've been labeling it wrong! The actual title is: NOT BRAND ECHH — 'cause if the word NOT is omitted, things'll be more confusing than ever around here! There! Now that we've set the record straight, we're gonna go out and kick ourselves around the block — if the real Brand Echh doesn't beat us to it! Anyhow, like we always say — THINK MARVEL!

ITEM! Here's more straight scoop on our senses-staggering SPECIALS for this summer. We've already told you about the 25¢ ish of SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS, as well as our MILLIE THE MODEL SPECIAL. (It IS ours, isn't it? Anyway, we think so!) But now, the long-awaited DAREDEVIL SPECIAL and the AVENGERS SPECIAL are both on sale! Ol' DD features an all-new and original 39-page knock-bustin' action thriller, in which our lovable hornhead battles like a demon against Electro and his Emissaries of Evil — and wait'll you see who the Emissaries are!! There are also a whole kaboodle of feature pages, diabolically dreamed up by Stan and Gene, containing the lowdown on DD — as well as some scintillating surprises and powerhouse pin-ups! And, just between us, the AVENGERS SPECIAL is just as great! It features possibly the longest single comics mag spectacular ever produced — 49 full pages of more super-hero action than anyone ever thought possible! You'll see the old Avengers — the new Avengers — the Sub-Mariner, Nick Fury, more villains than you can count, and just about everything we could toss in to make sure you get your money's worth! Remember: the DAREDEVIL SPECIAL, and the AVENGERS SPECIAL — both containing only brand-new material; both chock-full of thrills and surprises; and both on sale right now! Next ish we'll give you the facts about the upcoming FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL and the SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL, but till then — see why we say THINK MARVEL?

ITEM: Let's gossip about the gang for a while. Didja know that world-famous philosopher Marshall McLuhan has a brief write-up and a full-page photo of our leader in his first book, published in 1951? It was titled *The Mechanical Bride*, and the chapter concerning comic mags quoted Smilin' Stan himself! But, why not? Even Fearless Forbush is a fan of his! Rascally Roy, who's just bought himself a pet ocelot named Gotham (honest!) and Groovy Gary, who's just sold about a zillion pop songs which you'll all be humming soon, had both better look to their laurels — mainly because we've just lassoed a brand-new addition to our wondrous staff of way-out writers! Step right up and meet Raymond Marais who's now scripting Dr. Strange and will soon be trying his hand at Sub-Mariner as well! Not only is talented Ray as nice a guy as you'd wanna meet, but he's got more hair in his beard than the rest of the Bullpen have on their pointy heads! — And he's just a young sprite, too! One of these days we'll find out what he's hiding under there, but till then — welcome aboard, Bushy — and remember, your most important duty is — THINK MARVEL!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Many Keepers of the Faith have demanded that we take a more definite stand on current problems such as Viet Nam, civil rights, and the increase in crime, to name a few. We've a hunch that most Marvel-maidmen pretty well know where we stand on such matters — and we've long believed that our first duty is to entertain, rather than editorialize. Of course, you've probably noticed that it's not too easy to keep our own convictions out of the soul-stirring sagas we toss at you — but, in our own bumbling fashion, we do try. Anyway, since it's YOU who are the true editors of Marveldom, it's time for another impassioned poll! Should we editorialize more — or less — or keep things in their present fouled-up form? We'll announce the verdict as soon as one of us learns to count so we can tabulate the votes. But in the meantime, in case you haven't noticed, we've got a little suggestion for you. Namely — THINK MARVEL! That's it. Believe!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags on Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #3: This is the big one. The outlandish origins of Thor, the Hulk, and Captain America — but — these are the far-out Forbush versions, cunningly calculated to drive you batty! Marvel at its maddest!

SPIDER-MAN #33: Featuring the return of Dr. Octopus! Yep, Doc Ock, one of the most powerful, most deadly arch-foes in all of literature, returns with the most unexpected threat of all! And wait'll you read the last page — !

AVENGERS #44: At last! Captain America and the Red Guardian battle as never before! And this one ends in the only way possible — although we'll bet it's the last thing you'd ever suspect! It's mighty mag-nificent!

X-MEN #36: How can America's greatest mutant heroes rescue Professor X from Factor Three? Wouldja believe the Angel, Cyke, and Marvel Girl as construction workers? Can you picture the Beast and Iceman performing in Washington Square? And wait'll you see the villain in this one! YEEESH!

DAREDEVIL #32: Okay! Here it is! Deprived of his super-senses, DD fights to the finish against the Cobra and the murderous Mr. Hyde while he's imprisoned in the most escape-proof pad you've ever seen! How does he do it? You've gotta see it to believe it!

THOR #144: Any villains with names like Fandral, Brona, and Magnir can't be all bad — or can they? This one's a doozy! Goldilocks fights against seemingly hopeless odds while Odin is on the verge of losing Asgard! This one's for action fans!

STRANGE TALES #161: Talk about sizzling situations! This ish, Nick Fury confronts a nefarious new villain who — eww, why spoil it for you? This one you have to see for yourself! And wait'll you catch Doc Strange battling to save earth in the Land of the Million Perils! Hoo-Boy!

SUSPENSE #94: Sure, we know that Titanium Man whumped Shellhead last ish! But this time, the Golden Avenger is fighting mad as he strikes back! It's a battle you'll never forget! Nor will you forget the startling shock in store for you when Captain America finally faces — Modok!

ASTONISH #96: America's number one amphibian-on-campus stalks the predaceous Plunderer thru the Savage Land — while the rampaging Hulk is outmatched as he tears into the barbaric hordes of a fighting fanatic! And you'll never forget the fate of the half-crazed High Evolutionary!

SGT. FURY #46: In a shell-studded salute to the unsung heroes of every war, the Howlers team up with a battle-hungry medic to save a gravely-wounded Bull McGiveney! This one has to hit you right in your foxhole!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #11: This ish we're really gonna sock it to ya, baby! 'Cause, after thrilling to some of the greatest FF, Iron Man, Doc Strange, and Hulk sagas ever printed, you just have to wind up hangin' loose!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #10: This is the Golden-Age gas everyone's been demanding — the All-Winners Squad, featuring Captain America, the Human Torch, Sub-Mariner, Miss America, and the Whizzer — in a 43-page action epic destined to become the most talked about reprint of the decade!

MARVEL TALES #10: Spidey vs. Kraven the Hunter; Thor battling it out with Loki; the Human Torch fighting for his life against the Painter of a Thousand Perils — the most frenzied fight card since the opening of Madison Square Garden! Oh, and just to top it off, your big-hearted Bullpen's tossed in another scintillating story by the wonderfully winsome Wasp!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Gregory Gegenti — Yonkers, Ohio
Octavio Rivera — Bronx, N.Y.
Bruce D'Orsaneil — Albany, N.Y.
Neil Knapp — Queens, N.Y.
Dan Mogeman — Maney, B.C.
Christopher Flannery — Bronx, N.Y.
John Rutledge — Annapolis, Ind.
Robert Buckley — Bronx, N.Y.
Bruce Miller — New Canaan, Conn.
Robert Berkey — New Britain, Conn.
Vincent Lipinsky — Bronx, N.Y.
Dennis Galway — Honolulu, Hawaii
Bart Beach — Socorro, N. Mexico
Sheldon Bates — New York, N.Y.
John Meagher — Brooklyn, N.Y.
Charles Parish — Bronx, N.Y.
Gary Hershberg — Yonkers, N.Y.
Paul Delguerio — Hammonton, N.J.
Bruce Gordon — Bronx, N.Y.
Jerry Bails — Warren, Mich.
James Manuel — Vancouver, B.C.
Nathan Glidden — Yonkers, N.Y.
San Francisco, Calif.
Tucker, Ga.
Chicago, Ill.

WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF MARVEL MADNESS!

ITEM! Here's the scoop you've been waiting for! The inside info about our two latest and greatest 25¢ Specials, which are on sale right now. Taking them in alphabetical order, we present the fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL which features not one, but two—that's right, TWO original never-before-published titanic thrillers, led off by a movie-length saga entitled "Divided We Fall," starring the F.F., the Black Panther, and the indomitable Inhumans! You'll also gasp in amazement at our second far-out feature, which presents for the first time, starring in his own strip—the Silver Surfer! And you'll never guess who the unmentionable villain is! As if that's not enough, you'll frivolously fondle a whole kaboodle of pin-up pages and other assorted goodies!—But what about Spidey? Ah, we thought you'd never ask! Our SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL for this year brings you a double-length, all-new, all-original action bombshell featuring the block-busting battle you've all been clamoring for—the world's favorite wall-crawler vs.—you guessed it—the Human Torch!! There are also two unexpected guest villains whose identities you'll never figure out until it's too late! And for an extra kick, virtually the entire unforgettable cast of characters takes place in glamorous, goofy Hollywood! And wait'll you see the panicky pages of Spidey Extras, taking you behind the scenes of our web-slingin' wonder's life for an intimate glimpse of Peter Parker, his pad, and his pals—as you've never seen 'em before! Yessir, we kid these not! FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL #5, and SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL #4—both on sale today! If you don't buy another mag this month, these two you must not miss!

ITEM: Just in case some of you Faithful Ones weren't paying attention last ish, we thought we'd remind you once more about the sensational Fantastic Four and Spider-Man half-hour shows heading your way this fall as well as the fabulous Fantastic Four Special coming up on ABC-TV in September! Watch your paper's TV listings for the exact time and date . . . 'cause it's not to be missed! And how about those new, ghitzy, mixed-up Marvel items hitting the market every day! If your dealer doesn't have a full supply—show your MMMS card face front twice, and organize a read-in till he gets with it! That'll show 'im!

ITEM! Remember a few months back when we printed a letter from a fan suggesting that we give all True Believers various ranks and titles in the nobility of Marveldom? Well, the idea seems to have really caught fire out there amongst you tigers! We received countless letters, pro and con! First, we'll print the most typical of the anti-Marvel-ranks letters—

Dear Stan

Let's get something straight. You are not MEO (Marvel's Earthbound Odin); your artists are not DOD'S (Definitely Dizzy Doodlers); and your letterers are letterers, not IWP's (Indefatigable Word Placers) and so on. Get the message? If you follow up the idea of having to get letters printed, and of winning no-prizes in order to gain Ultimate Status, you'll get more bonehead letters than you know what to do with. When a fan sends a letter, it's to verify or correct what you've done. If it gets printed, fine! If it wins a no-prize, fine! But if people write just to get their letters printed or to win no-prizes, the letters pages will start losing dignity. Finally, I thought all Marvelites had achieved Ultimate status in the eyes of the Bullpen long ago. Do we have to add an atmosphere of cheap commercial competitiveness to the Marvel Comics Group?

Robert Lax, 25 Audubon Drive
Chestnut Hill, Mass. 02167

—Bob's got a good point there, and he presented it most convincingly. However, while many other frantic ones expressed the same opinion, by far the vast majority of letters were in favor of the idea of ranks and titles for Marveldom. Here's an example of what we mean—

Dear Stan,

The idea of various ranks of Marvelites is terrific! Why didn't I think of it! However, there should be a rank for being an MMMS member. May I suggest K.F. (Keeper of the Faith) which would come between R.F.O. (Real Frantic One) and Q.N.S. (Quite 'Nuff Sayers).

K.F. Wayne Nehwadewich
3549 Nostrand Ave., Bklyn. 11229

—Actually, Wayne went on to mention many more ranks, but we figure that excerpt gave you the idea. So, what are we gonna do about it? Well, for one thing, we're going to boil down the seemingly endless list of titles which we've had suggested to us, and try to limit them to just a few easy-to-remember ones. Then, when we get all the details worked out, we'll clue you in on this page in the very near future. And don't worry about being left out in the cold. We're gonna work it so that EVERY Marvelite—whether he's had a letter printed, or won a no-prize, or not—every Marvelite will be entitled to a rank of his own! Just give us time! Yes sir! Before we're through, we'll be well on our way to total oblivion!

ITEM: Here's an announcement we never expected to make! We're gonna recommend that you take a peek at—of all things—the latest ish of MILLIE THE MODEL! We've changed the mag around completely—new type of artwork and stories—and Honest to Aunt May, it's really kinda funny. Even if MILLIE isn't your own cup of tea, we have a hunch your sister or gal friend (wouldja believe your cousin?) might just get a boot out of it!

ITEM: Speaking of funny mags, the new ish of NOT BRAND ECHH is finally sporting its own Letters Page. So if you've been looking for a reason to latch onto a copy, now you've got it! Incidentally, this maniacal mag has become the sensation of the year! (Now, if we can only figure out WHICH year?)

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Many of you unsung heroes have written to ask how we really feel about our own mags. You've inquired whether we take them seriously, or just treat 'em as a patently pointless put-on! Well, just for the record, Charlie, we BELIEVE in our swingin' superheroes! We created them—we live with their adventures—their hang-ups—almost 24 hours a day. We know 'em as well as we know our families—and better than we know Irving Forbush. No literature ever our fearless little fellows are NOT put-ons! To us, they're what's happening, baby! It's the REAL world we have our doubts about—but that's another story! Till next month then, Face Front! That's where the action is!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #4: This is the nuttiest one of all! See what happens to three of our greatest and goofiest super-heroes when the VILLAINS win! Funny? Don't ask!

SPIDER-MAN #54: How can Spidey battle Doc Ock when his own Aunt May is an innocent hostage in the grim game of life and death? This one's not for the squeamish!

AVENGERS #45: Can the mighty Avengers withstand the attack of the sinister Super-Adaptoid—now that he has the added powers of Thor, Hercules, and Iron Man? You'll see—and how!

X-MEN #37: Possibly the most dramatic trial of all—as the uncanny X-Men face a jury of their greatest mutant foes, presided over by the malevolent master of Factor Three! Hoo-boy!

DAREDEVIL #33: Remember the bludgeoning Beetle—with the metal wings and armored body? Well, he's the one DD tangles with this time, and it's action all the way!

THOR #145: What's this? A Thunder God abandoned on earth—stripped of his powers—and tricked into helping the last group of villains you expected to see? It's a blast!

SUSPENSE #95: Iron Man battles the grotesque ultra Gargoyle as a new character enters his life. And Captain America faces his most startling decision!

ASTONISH #97: Namor fights for his very life to escape from the fantastic fortress known as Skull Island—while the Hulk finds himself menaced by the power of the Living Lightning!

STRANGE TALES #162: Can even Nick Fury escape from the clutches of the Yellow Claw—and can Doc Strange defeat Morde before the Living Tribunal destroys earth? This one you have to see for yourself—we're afraid to look!

SGT. FURY #47: What begins as a Kilin' leave in London erupts into an inferno of action as the Howlers fight to stop an impending Nazi invasion of Britain! It's a battle-scarred bombshell!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #11: This ish we're really gonna sock it to ya, baby! 'Cause after thrilling to some of the greatest FF (Iron Man, Doc Strange, and Hulk sagas ever printed, you just have to wind up hangin' loose!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #11: The best of three dynamic decades! Cap and Torchy from the 40's—Subby and a truly different super-hero from the 50's—and a far-out fantasy tale for good measure!

MARVEL TALES #11: The first classic team-up (or was it a battle royal?) of Spidey and DD—plus Thor, Wasp, and the ever-torpid Torch! More majestic milestones on the Marvel Road to Greatness!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Bob Mudge
Dave [illegible]
Anne Marie
Valparaiso, Indiana

Peter Kramer
Chicago
Mike Hamrick
Corpus Christi, Texas
Ken Nelson
Chicago
Lee Raymond
San Diego, Calif.

Michael Nash
Dearborn, Mich.
Jim Sprague
Rockford, Ill.
David Bridges
N.Y., N.Y.
Agustin Johnson
Wauwatosa, Wis.

Mike Rapp
Bronx, N.Y.
Paul Hall
Redondo Beach, Calif.
Mike Hall
Chicago
Alan Hall
Chicago

Dan Fraser
Cincinnati, Ohio
Richard Rowland
Syracuse, N.Y.
Mike Leah
Bronx, N.Y.
Ron Lalonde
Chicago, Ill.

Eric Richardson
N.Y., N.Y.
Mike Ross
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Ron Literature
Chicago
Dan Ross
Arlington, Texas

Joseph Rubin
N.Y., N.Y.
Bill Crawford
Lima, Peru
Mike Hall
Montreal, Canada
Steve Wilson
Syracuse, N.Y.

INSTANT INFO, INSANELY INSPIRED BY IRRELEVANT ITEMS OF INCREDIBLE INCONSEQUENCE!

ITEM! All of Marveldom assembled sends best wishes to Jolly JACK and ROZ K RAY on their 25th wedding anniversary! We're beginnin' to suspect that these two have a good thing going!

ITEM! We still don't know the exact date, but as we write these wondrous words, the adorable ABC Network has scheduled a full hour of Marvelmania for Saturday mornings. It'll open with 30 minutes of FANTASTIC FOUR, followed by another 30 minutes of SPIDER-MAN! (And as soon as Honest Ivy gets his own show, then you'll know we've really taken over the world!) Anyway, whether it sends you or sinks you, be sure to drop a line to the President of ABC, at 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York City, and let him know that the eyes of all True Believers are upon him!

ITEM! How's this for a sensation? We've plumb run out of Tales of Asgard (in THOR, natch!) so we're replacing that time-honored feature with another little doozy that'll really rock the roost! Starting now — we're hi-lighting a 5-page featurette starring — hold on, now — none other than the incomparable INHUMANS! If you miss a single one, you'll shake our confidence in ourselves, so hang in there, huh?

ITEM! Dandy DAN ADKINS (Dr. Strange and Sub-Mariner) and Jaunty JIM STERANKO (Nick Fury, Agent of Shield) have become the newest darlings of Marvel fandom! Together with our other two latest luminaries, Merry MARIE SEVERIN (The Hulk and Not Brand Echh) and Big JOHN BUSCEMA (The Avengers), they're getting almost as much rave mail as FABULOUS FLO and JOLLY SOLLY put together! That oughtta prove something! (And as soon as we figure out what it is, we'll clue you in!)

ITEM! Just as we promised, we're gonna give you various titles which all you Keepers of the Faith may use when signing your names. In order to allow you enough time to memorize them, we'll give you one per month, until the list is complete. And so, we hereby present the first, officially-approved Marvel monicker, to be used by any frenzied fan who buys at least three Marvel titles per month, with unfailing devotion — you, O hallowed hero, have now attained the first rung of the towering ladder of Marveldom! You are now — automatically, and irrevocably — an R.F.O. — a Real Frantic One! And, like Abu Ben Adam, may your tribe increase!

ITEM! We've another new feature premiering this month — in X-MEN! In answer to public demand (Bernard Public, our mailman, we're presenting a 5-pager devoted to the hitherto secret Origins of the X-Men! No true mutant-lover will dare to miss it!

ITEM! We'll award a genuine, non-tarnish no-prize to the first dozen devotees who can guess the off-beat reason why we had to raise the membership price for joining the M.M.M.S. back to one dollar again! Clue — it's not the obvious reason that you'd be apt to expect!

ITEM! Have you seen the swingin' surprise awaiting you in the current issue of NOT BRAND ECHH? Nothing sensational — merely the one little feature that the whole human race has been holding its breath for! At long last, for the first time anywhere, we're peerlessly presenting the agonizin' adventures of — FORBUSH-MAN! Need we say more?

ITEM! And how's this for the most exciting combo of the season—? Darlin' DICK AYERS is back at the pencilling end of SGT. FURY — with none other than JOHNNY (Set-'em-up) SEVERIN handling the inking chores! We have a hunch that you'll call our team-up of these two towering talents the smartest move since Aunt Petunia ducked out of Alcatraz!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

The mail hasn't stopped pouring in, asking for our comments about the ever-continuing Marvel–Brand Echh rivalry! It seems that some of our less-than-redoubtable rivals are still taking pot-shots at us on the pages of their mags, and our loyal legion of letter-writers has been demanding to know what action we're gonna take. Well, we're sorry to disappoint the hawks among you, but we really don't feel any action is warranted. Actually, they're not competition! You see, they obviously aim for a totally different type of reader than we do. We don't cater to any special age group, but we do cater to a special intellectual level. Our rollickin' readers, no matter what their age, have proven to be bright, imaginative, informal, and sophisticated! So we don't mind when some of our roguish rivals claim to outsell us. (Although they never bother to mention that they PUBLISH more mags than we!) After all, everyone knows there's less of OUR type of people than of theirs! So, let them continue catering to the bubblegum brigade—and more power to 'em. The public needs SOME sort of pablum till it's grown up to Marvel! 'Nuff said?

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #5: The greatest Ish yet! Featuring the epic battles of the Hulk vs. the Thing, the Revengers vs. Charlie America and — the sensat on of the season—introducing the frantic Forbush-Man!

SPIDER-MAN #55: Not only does Spidey fight the battle of his life against the astonishing Doc Ock, but fate deals him one of the most crushing blows of all! Another landmark issue!

AVENGERS #46: Inside the Anthill Waits . . . Death! And a shrunken Goliath and Wasp are the pair of ever-lovin' assemblers that it's waiting for—while Cap and Pietro take on a malevolent menace known only as . . . the Whirlwind! It's a blast!

X-MEN #35: The world's most unusual fighting team have only seconds left in which to save the earth from the horrors of World War III — and the clutches of the Mutant-Master! Also, don't miss the start of a sensational new series — "The Origins of the X-Men!"

DAREDEVIL #34: The action takes place at Expo '67, as DD tears into the bludgeoning Beetle in one of the most block-busting battles yet! It's ol' Hornhead at his fighting best — and wait'll you see the breath-taking finale!

THOR #144: This is the one you've been demanding! It's Thor, as you've rarely seen him, surrounded by the most crafty, colorful, conniving crowd of craven crooks—getting himself into a deadly dilemma which is more than his super-strength can handle!

SUSPENSE #96: How can Iron Man defeat a foe whose slightest touch can turn him to helpless stone? You'll never expect the startling finish! As for Captain America — he learns what it's like to be reborn!

ASTONISH #98: Namor's fabled Atlantis is besieged by the forces of the pernicious Plunderer — while the hoodwinked Hulk is about to make the greatest mistake of his life in the service of the Lord of the Living Lightning!

STRANGE TALES #163: Everybody's favorite Director of SHIELD closes in on the cataclysmic climax to his death struggle with the Yellow Claw — while Doc Strange is forced to team up with the nefarious Nebulos to save earth from the Living Tribunal! This one's a real mind-snapper!

SGT. FURY #48: The blockbustin' Blitz Squad returns to make a devastating attack on the Howlers' home base in Britain! 'Nuff said!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #12: The FF, the Hulk, Iron Man and Doc Strange in some of their most agonizing adventures of all—in this, the Marvel Age of Comics! Color this one groovesville!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #11: The best of three dynamic decadest Cap and Torchy from the 40's—Subby and a truly different super-hero from the 50's — and a far-out fantasy tale for good measure!

MARVEL TALES #11: The first classic team-up (or was it a battle royal?) of Spidey and DD — plus Thor, Wasp, and the ever-torpid Torch! More majestic milestones on the Marvel March to Greatness!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Gary Miller, Drumheller, Alta.
[illegible], Portland, Ore.
David Ricks, Granada, Miss.
Tommy Rainey, Bryan, Tex.
Noonie Macon, Bryan, Tex.
Mike Moore, Carterville, Ill.
Patrick McGrath, Worcester, Mass.
Gordon Michaels, Jamaica, N. Y.
James Morack, Valley Station, Ky.
Marvin Marshall, E. Omaha, Neb.
Albert Maldonado, Bronx, N. Y.
Cisco Ramirez, Helena, Calif.
Nicholas Nesi, Bronx, N. Y.
Gary McSwane, Pasadena, Calif.
Tommy Richardson, Blytheville, Ark.
Dave Regent, San Mateo, Calif.
Scott Rogers, Butler, N. J.
Mark Rogers, Butler, N. J.
David Mitofsky, Flushing, N. Y.
Eric Mitofsky, Flushing, N. Y.
Greg Mattson, Lester Prairie, Minn.
Hector Rodriguez, Chicago, Ill.
Willie McNeely, Milwaukee, Wisc.
Lowell Morris, Mission, Tex.
Larry Miller, Gary, Ind.
Sean O'Meara, Chicago, Ill.

WHO SAYS THIS ISN'T THE MARVEL AGE OF BATTY BULLETINS?

ITEM! By the time you read these imperishable words, our two Saturday morning full color half-hour cartoon spectaculars, FANTASTIC FOUR and SPIDER-MAN, should be knockin' 'em dead from border-to-border and coast-to-coast on the far-flung ABC television network! And by the way, even if you don't live in the continental United States, write to your local TV station anyway, asking when Spidey and the FF will be seen in your area. (If you live in Red China, think how that'll shake 'em up!) When the voice of Marveldom Assembled speaks, even the airwaves must quiver in awe! —

ITEM! Speaking of the airwaves, for those of you in the N. Y.-New Jersey listening area, who might have missed our leader's radio interview with Joel Scott over F.M. station WFMU (91.1 megacycles), it was such a smash that it'll be rebroadcast at 9:00 PM, Oct. 16th. So if you get a chance, give a listen, huh? Smiley will be talking about our favorite subject — Marvel mags!

ITEM! We received a letter recently that all you face-fronters will get a kick out of. Without any further ado, here 'tis —

Dear Stan,

Remember the controversy when you introduced that pinnacle of imperfection, Irving Forbush? Everyone asked "Who is he?" Now I (with the help of my complete collection of your Marvel masterpieces) have solved the mystery! He's a character who's appeared, in various guises, in many of your earlier mags! For example, he was the owner of the clothing store which was wrecked by the Thing when Irv told him he had no clothes to fit him (If you've forgotten, see FF #1). To continue, Forbush was the wrestler that Peter Parker first tried his spider powers on. (Take a squint at AMAZING FANTASY, #15). He was also the guy who neglected to push the "hold" button when scientist Bruce Banner spotted a young man on the field, in danger of being exposed to gamma rays. (HULK #1, natch). He was the private who got a soggy blanket tossed at his face when he tried to inform an irate Sgt. Fury that "Happy Sam" Sawyer wanted to see him. (A bit of nostalgia from SGT FURY #2). Obviously, Irv was the first member of such illustrious organizations as "Kirby's Kast of Kharacters", (A little group you clued us in on in FF #19), and of the venerated MMMS as well. To sum it up, Irving Forbush is a caricature of all that is humorous, sad, optimistic, pessimistic, irreverent, and righteous in your publications, and in fact, the entire world. So, as long as the merry Marvel Bullpen keeps hanging loose, the world will be saved from the terrible plague of Bland Echh. I thank you. (Signed) Richard Vitone, 7517 W. Addison St., Chicago 60634, Ill.

Dick, we're rushing you a No-Prize on the double. Thy sagacious summary hath overwhelmed us once and all! But now that we all know Honest Irv's true identity, just tell us one thing — who is he?

ITEM! Guess who just produced a special surprise comic mag for the ABC Network—which features the FF and SPIDEY, among others? It's called AMERICA'S BEST TV COMICS, on sale at all newsstands, or send 25¢ to ABC, Box 20, Detroit, Mich. (—End of commercial!)

ITEM! We just remembered! It's time to announce the second rank of Marveldom. Last ish we gave you the first rank, the title R.F.O. (Real Frantic One), to which any Believer is entitled provided he or she (or it) buys a minimum of 3 Marvel mags each month. And now (Ta-ta-ta-taaa, ta-ta!) rank #2: Q.N.S. (Quite 'Nuff Sayer), to be used with pride by any heroic one who has had at least one letter published in a Marvel mag. Stay tuned for our next ish when we'll fill you in on the title T.T.B.! It's a doozy!

ITEM: And now, before we get to our Soapbox section, just another reminder to the more playful pussycats among you that there's a whole kaboodle of Marvel toys, games, and novelties on sale at a store near you right now. (Unless you're rowing a kayak across the Pacific—in which case wait'll next month). We're not trying to leave you penniless, but we get so many indignant letters from frenzied ones who berate us for not mentioning various items that are on sale, that we thought we'd wrap the whole thing up in a ball and let you have it all at once, like now! Excelsior!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Every so often we like to toss a completely unexpected, bombshell surprise at you. Well, we've got one for you now! We decided to mention it in this space, which is the most widely-read paragraph in all of comicdom, so that none of you will miss it. Just for kicks, yours truly and General Gene Colan have created a brand new superhero who we think is destined to become an overnight sensation. His name — CAPTAIN MARVEL!! We don't wanna say any more about him now, except to tell you that he's starring in MARVEL SUPER-HEROES. It's on sale right now! It's dramatic! It's daring! And it's different! Read it — then drop us a line telling how it grabs you. We're waiting on pins and needles for your reaction. And now, till we meet again, be good to each other. Always remember — "Love thy neighbor" means EVERY BODY! 'Nuff said!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES FEATURING CAPTAIN MARVEL

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #5: This one's so great we kept it on sale a second month for you! The greatest ish yet! Featuring the epic battles of the Bulk vs. the Thung, the Revengers vs. Charlie America, and — the sensation of the season — introducing: the frantic Forbush-Man!

SPIDER-MAN #56: If Spidey was hated and feared by the public before, what'll happen now — now, when he's actually fighting on the side of a more-deadly-than-ever Doc Ock? Even WE can't be sure Spidey will ever get out of this one!

AVENGERS #47: What's this? Captain America quits the Avengers? Hercules finds an awesome mystery upon fabled Olympus? Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch are captured after a desperate battle? And we're only charging 12¢? CHEEE!

X-MEN #39: With the fate of the entire world hanging in the balance, Marvel's mightiest mutants face a final showdown with Factor Three! Plus, the never before-told "Origin of Cyclops!" This is X-citement unlimited!

DAREDEVIL #35: Even the fabulous FF have never been able to defeat him for good — and now, the Man Without Fear must battle the Trapster alone! But, how do you fight someone when he's already beaten you? It's a shocker!

THOR #147: Now, with the Thunder God's power at its lowest ebb — with his own father turned against him — with the police themselves unable to help — now — NOW — the mighty Thor must face the deadliest threat of all — Loki!!

SUSPENSE #97: Whiplash! His very name sends shivers down your spine! You'll meet him for the first time in this sensational Iron Man thriller! As for Captain America, he's got a real surprise for you — and for himself as well! All we have to do is mention three words — the Black Panther!

ASTONISH #99: Exiled and stripped of his throne, Namor desperately attempts to ward off an invasion of the surface by his own Atlantean Legions! And now, the best news of all — you'll see the incredible Hulk fight all the bad guys at once — and beat 'em, for a change! It's dynamite!

STRANGE TALES #164: You'll gasp in amazement when Doc Strange ventures into a world of nightmares to rescue the beauteous Victoria Bentley! And, as if that isn't enough, Nick Fury finds himself trapped in the lair of the Yellow Claw! This one's gotta shatter your senses!

SGT. FURY #49: The Howlers start the Allies on the long road to victory in the Pacific — as they fight their way across the blood-stained sands of Tarawa! Hooo boy — this is really the big one!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #12: The FF, the Hulk, Iron Man, and Doc Strange in some of their most agonizing adventures of all — in this, the Marvel Age of Comics! Color this one groovesville!

MARVEL SUPERHEROES — STARRING CAPTAIN MARVEL #12: You've been clamoring for something new — and here it is! A new superhero by two of the most talented pros of all! Certain to be a collectors' item the minute it's sold out! Don't dare miss it!

MARVEL TALES #12: The mostest in Mighty Marvel memorabilia starring Spidey, Torchy, Thor, and the wonderful Wasp and all, for only a quarter. Who says it isn't the Marvel Age of bombshell bargains?

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Stephen McGuire Baltimore, Md.	Danny Moore Adrian, Mo.	Richard Gerson Arbutus, Md.	Gary Hubbard Ayer, Mass.	George Rosich Aliquippa, Pa.	Nicholas Razza New Orleans, La.	Henry Moore Houston, Tex.
Frank Rachinsky Kingston, Ont.	Curt Huckaby Sumner, Calif.	Leonard Coolidge Newark, N. Y.	James Gregg Kansas City, Mo.	William Marshall Warner, Okla.	Brian Madigan Redrow, N. Y.	Reid Russell Rochester, Del.
	Ronald Lewis Bethany, Okla.	Lorraine Matineau Shawnee, Kan.	John Lowry Kansas City, Mo.	Ted [illegible] Sidney, N. C.	Sue Rothenberg Jamaica, N. Y.	Sean Mangan Toronto, Ont.
	Tim Gray Colon Zone, Panama	Wayne Boyce Prairie, Ala.	Eric [illegible] Wayne, Pa.	Ralph Ripley Houston, Tex.	Terry Rosebush Wayne	Richard Mangone Glenside, Pa.

FACE FRONT! HANG LOOSE! 'NUFF SAID!

(It's Easier Than Thinking Up A New Title!)

ITEM! You asked for it! And now you've got it! For the zillions of zingy zealots who can't get enough of SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS, we've finally added another block-busting battle bonanza to our lineup named CAPT SAVAGE AND HIS LEATHERNECK RAIDERS! It's on sale right now, written by Groovy Gary, pencilled by Darlin' Dick, and inked by a new Marvel old-timer — or an old Marvel newcomer, if you prefer — none other than SYD (The Kid) SHORES who illustrated many of our top strips during the First Golden Age of Comics — strips such as Captain America, The Black Rider, The Blonde Phantom, and others which only Honest Iv remembers! Anyway, if you like Fury, ol' Savage will boot you outta your fox-hole! So move it, Marvelite, while they last!

ITEM! And, speaking of new titles from the House of Ideas, we're keeping the great first ish of CAPTAIN MARVEL — featured in MARVEL SUPER-HEROES — on sale for an extra month, to give you collectors an extra thirty days to latch onto this irreplaceable premiere issue. We've got mighty big plans for CAPTAIN MARVEL, so we strongly advise you to get with him now, in order to be in at the very beginning!

ITEM! Whoops! Before we forget — don't dare miss our action-packed 100th Anniversary ish of TALES TO ASTONISH, now on sale. It features, for the first time, a complete, book-length thriller in which the Sub-Mariner battles the Incredible Hulk — penciled by Marvel-ous MARIE SEVERIN and embellished by Dapper DANNY ADKINS! And STAN THE MAN's script is nothing to complain about, either. Need we say more?

ITEM! It's official! Lonesome GEORGE TUSKA is now back with us to stay! Two-Fisted Mr. T. was one of our mainstays way back when we had some of the most rugged adventure yarns of all. But then he took a long leave of absence to illustrate the Buck Rogers newspaper strip . . . returning briefly some months back to help us in a pinch. But now, he's back for good, although we won't tell you which mags he's appearing in — we thought you'd get a kick out of searching for him!

ITEM! Yessir! Marvel's really hitting its stride right now — and remember, this is only the beginning! Those of you who've been clamoring for more writers, more artists, and especially more magazines, are in for some very pleasant surprises in the months to come. Not the least of these surprises is our recent acquisition of the talented services of Artful ARCHIE GOODWIN as Marvel's newest stupefyin' script writer! Ol' Arch had been editor and head writer (No, Irving, that doesn't mean he wrote on heads!) for another publishing company until recently when he saw the light and entered the sanctified realm of True Believers. He's cutting his teeth on IRON MAN and the ever-noble SUB-MARINER, but after that the sky's the limit. Who knows? He may even someday reach the halcyon heights of writing MILLIE THE MODEL!

ITEM! Okay — grab your pencils and get ready for the next assignment! We've the latest title of Marvel-dom for you to memorize. Remember the first two we gave you? We started with RFO (Real Frantic One), to be used by those who buy three or more Marvel mags a month. Then, we segued into QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer), the appellation for those favored few who've had one or more letters published on any of our pulsatin' pages. And now — the third rank of Marveldom Assembled — the three letters which are destined to become an everlasting part of literary lore and legendom — namely, TTB (Titanic True Believer), the hard-earned and well-deserved title for anyone who has ever won a noteworthy, non-negotiable No-Prize! But, we still have a couple of more titles waiting backstage, so don't miss this page next month, when we clue you in on the munificent meaning of — K.O.F. Till then, back to our itinerant items —

THE WRAP-UP! What say we tie the whole thing up with another confusing collection of capricious comments from our light-hearted leader — ? (No, Irving, light-hearted — not light-headed! SHEEESH!)

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Every day the mail brings a few requests from our far-flung legions of loyal ones, asking us to explain what in the name of Aunt Petunia the little stamp at the upper right-hand corner of our covers really means. You know, the one that reads: Approved By The Comics Code Authority. Well, just as the motion picture industry has a self-regulatory agency to insure the propriety of its product — so too does the comics magazine industry. Any periodical which might contain offensive or unacceptable material cannot win that little stamp which appears upon all our covers. It's just as simple as that. Now then, we've often been asked how we at Marvel actually feel about having to submit our masterful yarns to an outside agency for approval. Our answer is, we're delighted to do it. After all, the Comics Code Authority and your batty Bullpen share the same overall objectives — we both want the stories you read to remain within the bounds of good taste. Our creative surge is in no way stifled by this process — our employment of satire is in no way curtailed — and we enjoy the same elements of literary and artistic freedom as any other practitioners of the arts in any other media. The Comics Code Authority tells us to do nothing that we would not do even if they weren't in existence. So, to those of you who've been wondering — that's the story. And, before we sign off, we'd like to tip our hat to Code Administrator Len Darvin and his sagacious staff for the truly excellent work they've done in a difficult and ofttimes thankless job. — Excelsior!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvelous Mags on Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #6: It's almost too funny to describe! Our big love-and-marriage issue! Spidey Man gets engaged — and wait'll you see to whom! The Human Scorch gets married and meets his in-laws! And don't miss our most mystical superhero's roll-ckin' romance with a Brand Echh heroine! It's wild!

SPIDER-MAN #57: The one you've been waiting for! A confused, dazed Spider-Man battles the unbeaten Ka-Zar, lord of the jungle — and his saber-toothed tiger, Zabu! Any questions, man?

AVENGERS #48: From out of the night sky comes the grim, dark-clad form of . . . the new Black Knight! But, does he come as friend — or as foe? The answer'll really grab ya, tiger!

X-MEN #40: It'll take more than their dynamic new costumes to help our merry mutants when they meet the most famous monster in history — none other than Frankenstein's monster! Hooo boy!

DAREDEVIL #36: As if the blistering battle between ol' Hornhead and the terrible Trapster isn't enough, we can safely promise you the most unexpected surprise of the year when you reach the end of this landmark issue!

THOR #148: Not since the never-to-be-forgotten Absorbing Man has mighty Thor faced a foe like the Wrecker! But now, against the most deadly of menaces, our hero's power is at its lowest ebb! Not for the timid!

CAPTAIN MARVEL, starring in MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #12: This fabulous introductory issue is still on sale! If you can still find a copy, don't dare miss it! Captain Marvel is destined to become the most provocative superhero of the year — and Gentleman Gene's awesome artwork is really something else! We kid thee not!

SUSPENSE #96: Iron Man battles Whiplash in the most memorable mishmash of modern mayhem you've ever thrilled to! And wait'll you see Captain America fighting side-by-side with the bludgeoning Black Panther! This is for action-lovers!

ASTONISH #100: The greatest anniversary issue of all! You'll gape at the earth-pounding battle between the Hulk and Sub-Mariner — all in one double-length tale, as a mind-snapping tribute to Green-skin and our water-logged Subby!

STRANGE TALES #166: Nick Fury faces the power-mad Yellow Claw in a battle to decide the fate of humanity — and there was no name we could give our Dr. Strange epic except . . . "Nightmare!" 'Nuff said!

SGT. FURY #50: The Howlers lead the great Allied assault on Tarawa in a desperate attempt to rescue Izzy Cohen — only to find that "On the Beach Waits . . . Death!" This one you dare not miss!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #1: The power-packed premiere of a pulse-pounding new battle-mag bombshell — in the great SGT. FURY tradition! It's destined to become a contemporary combat classic!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #13: Wouldja believe the F.F., ol' Shellhead, the Hulk, Dr. Strange, and the Watcher — all in one ish? Well, you better, frantic one!

MARVEL TALES #12: The most-est in mighty Marvel memorabilia starring Spidey, Torchy, Thor, and the wonderful Wasp — and all for only a quarter! Hooo boy!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S members!

Julie Nemer, Marlborough, Conn.	Brad Herrington, Arcadia, Calif.	John Kalman, Lincoln Park, Mich.	Ray Kahrahan, Modesto, Calif.	D. Hobgood, Durham, N.C.	Steve Rivera, Akron, Ohio	John Ratsios, Argy, N.M.
Pete [illegible], Dorval, Quebec	Pete Quintana, New York, N.Y.	Randy Gann, Vancouver, B.C.	Gary D Brenski, College Point, N.Y.	Nan Robinson, Seaman, Okla.	Rich Knapps, Syracuse, N.Y.	Anne Lammond, Arlington, Va.
	Frank Kelley, Lancaster, Ky.	Rocky Holumes, Maywood, Ill.	Robert Rouse, Cottonwood, Wisc.	Steven Rabe, Freehold, N.J.	Richard Krajicek, Celina, Neb.	David Higgins, Pueblo, Colo.
Pete [illegible], Vancouver, B.C.	[illegible], Emporium, Penn.	Charles Vasko, Cleveland, Ohio	Frank Reed, Wethersfield, Conn.	Alton, Iowa	Mark Hahn, Chicago, Ill.	Bruce Lowry, Van Nuys, Calif.

MORE BATTY BULLETINS TO BEWILDER, BEWITCH, AND BEDAZZLE THEE!

ITEM! We won't keep you in suspense a second longer! Here it is — our very next title of Marveldom for you to memorize and cherish fore'er! But first, let's once again summarize the first three we bestowed upon you. We started with RFO (Real Frantic One), to be used by those who buy three or more Marvel mags a month. Then, we added QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer), munificant monikar for those gifted ones who've had one or more letters published within the confines of our imperishable letters pages. Last ish we revealed to a breathlessly waiting world that TTB (Titanic True Believer), was the long-sought-after cognomen for anyone who has ever won a practically priceless No-Prize! And now — prepare thyself for the fabulous fourth rank of Marveldom Assembled — three letters which are destined to shake the literary world to its very core — three letters which shall soon be part and parcel of eternal Americana—three letters which, for sheer drama and stark simplicity have no possible peer — in short, the lustrous letters KOF (Keeper of the Flame), to be claimed with pride by any Marvel madman, anywhere in the free world, who successfully recruits a new disciple into the riotous ranks of Marveldom! Now, whilst you bow your head in silent reverie, we shall take this occasion to reveal next month's three letters — P.M.M. — the highest rank of all — whose deep, dramatic meaning shall be revealed to thee on this page next ish! And now, on to other matters, before we become too emotional —

ITEM! Here's another in our continuing series of newsworthy tidbits which you can very easily live without. Didja know that our mixed-up Marvel mags are actually reprinted in eight different languages thruout the globe? And as soon as we learn how to translate into cosmic Kree (in-joke for FF and Capt. Marvel buffs!), we'll be making that NINE languages!

ITEM: Oh, speaking of our worldwide Marvel beachheads, we wanna explain something that's been bothering our brain-blasting British boosters. Those of you who've been following our yarns in the famous publications printed by England's Odham's Press have been worried that they'll be 'replacing our own tintinnabulatin' titles. Well, perish the thought, Precious One! The Odham's weeklies are simply REPRINTING our older classics (and doing a great job of it, too!) — but all the newest maniacal masterpieces we turn out will be on sale in Great Britain, same as ever, just as fast as we can ship 'em over! There now — is there anybody we haven't confused?

ITEM: We recently received a letter which we thought might interest you — so, here 'tis

Dear Stan,

Operation Mailcall Viet Nam is a service by the American Government which gives people a chance to write to members of the American Armed Forces who are overseas. It's a chance to let them know that they're not alone — and that someone's thinking of them. It's a great service, and I believe that many other Marvel Madmen would be glad to correspond with someone overseas. In my first letter I just told a bit about myself as an introduction — my age, hobbies, etc. The letters should be in unsealed, unstamped envelopes and placed within another sealed, stamped envelope which is addressed to OPERATION MAILCALL VIET NAM, BOX 2602, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013.

Yours truly,
Bill Reed, Craiglea Dr.
Scarborough, Ontario, Canada

Many thanks for the info, Billy — and we're passing it along as you suggested. We also want to mention one additional fact. Many of our politically aware readers have divergent opinions about the Viet Nam war — as do the Bullpeners themselves. This notice is not intended as an endorsement on our part of any specific policy regarding the war. We simply feel that many American boys have been sent into battle far from home — and anything we can do to make 'em feel that they're not forgotten is surely a worthwhile deed which transcends mere politics. 'Nuff said?

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

You've probably already noticed the way we've changed our cover mastheads on ASTONISH, SUSPENSE, and STRANGE TALES....featuring the name of each alternate character in turn, every other month. But that's only the beginning! 1968 will go down in comic dom history as the year of the big changes in the wonderful world of Marvel! We've got new titles that will soon be taking you by storm — and new features that'll make you realize the ol' House of Ideas is more daring than ever! In fact, we have one new mag now on the drawing board that's so dramatically different in concept, we confidently predict it will actually usher in the SECOND Marvel Age of Comics — an era even greater, even more glorious than ever before! So stay with us, fellow stalwarts — the best is just ahead! Remember — every wondrous winner has your name on it, and we kid thee not! Anyway, whatever you do—wherever you go—THINK MARVEL! It only hurts when you laugh!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #6: This is your last chance to latch onto the nuttiest issue of a . See what happens when LUV hits Spidey-Man, the Human Scorch, and Dr. Deranged! Chock full of goofy gags and way-out, wild guest stars, it's the funniest thing since Macbeth! Don't yechh — read Brechh!

FANTASTIC FOUR #72: Wouldja believe — the Silver Surfer? Wouldja believe — another action-packed epic featuring the battle of the century? Wouldja believe — the Watcher? Well, you better believe it! This is the big one!

MARVEL TALES #13: Spidey, Thor, Giant-Man, and — latch onto your seat belts — from out of the glorious golden age . . . Marvel Boy, one of the most dramatically different super heroes ever! The House of Ideas has done it again!

AVENGERS #42: Magneto at the United Nations? Wanda and Pietro reverting to evil mutants? And the mighty Avengers battling against their old comrades? The answer is yes on all counts — and adventuredom will never be the same again!

X-MEN #41: How do you fight a super-powered foe whose one overwhelming desire is to destroy the entire earth — and himself along with it? That's what our marvelous mutants must find out, and fast, when they battle the one and only . . .

DAREDEVIL #37: Sometimes a story's so great that there's no satisfactory way to describe it! All we can say about this one is — DD battles Dr. Doom like a man possessed—and you'll gape at the most frightening last page you've ever thrilled to! Howzat?

CAPTAIN MARVEL, starring in **MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #13:** A new weapon . . . a new life . . . and a mind stagge ing menace that threatens to be not only Captain Marvel's first challenge — but also his last! For, at long last — the Sentry lives again!

THOR #149: Even a Thunder God can't win 'em all — especially when his frightful foe is the triumphant Wrecker! If you've ever wondered what happens when a super-hero is out-fought, this one's for you!

SUSPENSE #99: Whiplash! The Maggia! Jasper Sitwell! And . . . what's his name? Oh yeah, Iron Man, too! The biggest star-studded action-epic since "Gone With The Wind!" As for our star-spangled Avenger, together with the Black Panther, Cap finds himself pitted against Zemo, the fiend who cannot exist!

ASTONISH #101: Possibly the greatest Hulk tale you've ever read! See what happens when the giant rampager finds himself in Asgard, pitted against the might of the immortals themselves! Meanwhile, Subby battles for his life against a startling new super-villain near the site of the original Atlantis! This one's a blockbuster!

STRANGE TALES #166: Talk about cataclysmic climax issues — this one tops 'em all! Nick Fury and the Yellow Claw square off for a final, deadly fight to the finish — while Doc Strange goes into the last round of his epic encounter with Yandroth! You dare not miss it!

SGT. FURY #51: The Howlers crash land behind enemy lines — but that's not about to stop them from rescuing one of the most vitally important men in the free world! Oh, and guess who's with 'em? None other than Happy Sam Sawyer himself! Weh-Hooo!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #1: The power-packed premiere of a pulse-pounding new battle-mag bombshell — in the great SGT. FURY tradition! It's destined to become a contemporary combat classic!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #13: What would you do if you suddenly spotted a Marvel mag with the FF, Iron Man, the Hulk, Dr. Strange, and the Watcher, all in one ish? Snap it up, natch!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Don Rader, Hillsdale, Mich.
Steve Rosnett, Peoria, Ill.
Peter [illegible], Saddle River, N. J.
Jean Reynolds, Palo Alto, Calif.
George Ford, Fort Worth, Tex.
Vicky Roberts, Ft. Knox, Ky.
Ron Rensrich, Bergen, N. J.
Tibor Urie, Victoria, Australia
Keith Roy, Jennings, La.
[illegible] Rizzetti, Mt. Kisco, N. Y.
Bill Rermert, Boca Raton, Fla.
Jim Ray, Annandale, Va.
James Riley, Wa[illegible], N. Y.
Paul Torres, Los Angeles, Calif.
Robert Vanderhoeven, Oneida, N. Y.
Joe Vasquez, Newport, Ky.
[illegible], Philadelphia, Pa.
Roy Rubinfeld, E. Rockaway, N. Y.
Glenn Harris, New York, N. Y.
John Ray, Sarasota, Fla.
Dianne Redman, Sarasota, Fla.
Felicia Valen, Warren, R. I.
Mike Riley, Seattle, Wash.
Michael Tripp, San Francisco, Calif.
Fiorry Tomasulo, Long Beach, N. Y.
Joel Ramey, Vancouver, Wash.

COME 'N GET IT, TIGER—HERE'S OUR NEW YEAR'S GIFT TO YOU!!

We promised to start '68 off with a bang, and we kidded thee not! So, hang on to your crash helmet pilgrim — this is what you've been waiting for!

ITEM! It's finally happened! The star-spangled Captain America — and the great, green-skinned Hulk — have both been awarded their own full-length mags each month! That means, starting right now, you can buy the big, new, action-packed CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS, as well as the sensational, spectacle-filled INCREDIBLE HULK COMICS, and thrill to their awesome adventures from cover to cover!

BUT — now you're probably wondering what'll happen to Iron Man, and the swingin' Sub-Mariner! Well, you didn't think we'd forget about 'em didja' For the month only, they're both sharing the same mag — and both their names will be featured up in the cover title. That's right — we said For the month only'! Because, next month — aw, no sense telling you now! We've got some big changes coming month after month — and we might as well clue you in a little at a time, as we go along' So, watch for the big surprise announcement coming up next ish — and the ish after that — and after that — and after that! Yessir! 1968 is the year of Marvel — and you better believe it!

Y'KNOW, we're so excited about our two brand-new smashes, CAPTAIN AMERICA and THE INCREDIBLE HULK, that we can hardly talk about anything else! Both mags feature all the action, drama, and suspense which you've come to expect from your blue-eyed Bullpen — plus the added treat of a couple of ORIGINS tossed in for good measure, for the benefit of those who really like to get their money's worth! And like we said, this is only the beginning'

REMEMBER how it all started? Lots of frantic ones thought ol' Marvel was getting lazy — they thought we were satisfied to sit back and rest on our laurels! Then, we hit 'em with a sudden one-two punch — first, the magnificently mad NOT BRAND ECHH, which has proven to be the unexpected smash hit of the decade — and then, almost before they could catch their breath, along came the daringly different CAPTAIN MARVEL, who seems to have taken superhero fandom by storm! Lazy are we?' Know thou this — we're just getting started! This is the beginning of the SECOND Golden Age of Marvel — and it's gonna be a never-ending joyride! Next ish we'll tell you about lots more of the goodies in store — as if you didn't know!

ITEM! It's title-time again! Here's the mightiest of all Marvel ranks — the one which adorns the very pinnacle of Marveldom! You've already been briefed about RFO (Real Frantic One), to be used by those who buy three or more Marvel mags a month — QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer), for those who've had a letter gracing our peerless pages — TTB (Titanic True Believer), for the richly-endowed recipient of a hallowed No-Prize — and KOF (Keeper of the Flame), for those who recruit a new disciple into the rollicking realm of Marveldom. And now — the ultimate! The ne plus ultra! The apex of titledom! PMM (Permanent Marvelite Magnus), to be cherished and guarded with pulsating pride by those fortunate few who have won all four of the preceding titles! If you're a PMM, you're entitled to face the Baxter Building and wiggle your webs whenever the mood strikes you — and you can even call your friendly Forbush-Man by his first name! Tamam Shud!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Now that we've announced the start of the Second Golden Age of Marvel, we must also announce the end of an era! From this moment on, we'll no longer refer to our competition as Brand Echh! We coined that expression a few years ago as a gag, figuring it would be fun for us to needle some of the outfits who were older and bigger than we. However, thanks to the loyalty of you fabulous fans, and to the hard work, talent, and dedication of our beloved Bullpeners, we've managed to make ourselves the undisputed leaders of the comics industry. Perhaps we're still not the biggest — and we're certainly not the oldest — but we doubt that any group of magazines has ever been so imitated, so universally acclaimed, or so zealously supported by its fans! — No, strike that word! You're more than fans! Much more! We've always thought of you as friends — and we always will! Anyway, when you're on top of the heap, it doesn't seem right to rib the other guy who hasn't quite made it — and that's why the only time we'll use the phrase BRAND ECHH from now on is in the title of our own goofy gag mag! So, to the artists, writers, and editors of the other companies in this batty business in which we toil, many of whom are close personal friends of ours — we hereby end the fatuous little feud we've been flaunting before the public. Let's just call it a draw and get on with the business at hand — the business of making today's comic mags the greatest entertainment value on earth — and tomorrow's even greater! 'Nuff said!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #7: This is almost too terrific to describe! Out of the goodness of our greedy little hearts, we present the ORIGIN OF THE FANTASTICAL FOUR — and, to prove we play no favorites, we also give you — and you can have it — the ORIGIN OF STUPORMAN! What more can we say?

FANTASTIC FOUR #73: It's true! Dr. Doom lives again! And, to celebrate this mind-staggering revelation, you'll thrill to one of the greatest battles ever staged featuring none other than Spider-Man, Daredevil — and the mighty Thor! It's a mind-blaster!

AVENGERS #50: Immortal vs. Immortal — as the matchless Hercules faces the pure pounding power of Typhon, mightiest of Titans! And you can be sure the rest of our ever-lovin' assemblers get into the act, as well! A knock-down, drag-out blast!

X-MEN #42: The issue you never expected to see — and we never expected to print! Professor X dies — so that humanity might live! And, don't miss the pulsating showdown with the sub-human monster called Groteskl This is the big one!

DAREDEVIL #38: We call it "The Living Prison," and no thriller was ever more aptly titled! Wait'll you see Daredevil, in the body of Dr. Doom, battling against Dr. Doom — in the body of Daredevil! Possibly the most daringly original theme you'll gasp at this year!

CAPTAIN MARVEL, STARRING IN MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #13: Still on sale — if you're lucky! Marvel's newest hero gains a new identity — a new life — and a new and sinister foe, as the senses-shattering Sentry once more walks the earth! It's a gasser!

THOR #150: At last — the mighty Thunder God is claimed by Hela, Goddess of Death! Is this to be the end of the most spectacular series of modern times — or the beginning of new wonderment such as mortal eyes have never seen? Even we're not sure!

IRON MAN AND SUB-MARINER #1: Don't dare miss this one! Probably the only time these two superhero greats will co-star in the same mag! Next month they go on to a still greater destiny, but till then — this one titanic issue will undoubtedly be the top collectors' item of the season!

CAPTAIN AMERICA (Premiere Issue!): This is it! The star-spangled Avenger in his own full-length magazine! Featuring an unexpected origin bit, plus the startling solution to the macabre mystery of Zemo! You'll never part with this one — especially when the Panther goes into action!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK (Premiere Issue!): Another triumph for mighty Marvel! The world's most powerful mortal starring at last in his own magazine! As an extra bonus, you'll thrill anew to Green Skin's origin — as well as to the awesome action when the might of Asgard is hurled against him!

STRANGE TALES #167: Finally, the cataclysmic climax to the bombastic battle between Nick Fury and the Yellow Claw (honest)! And Doc Strange enters a deadly dimension of death in search of Victoria Bentley! This one you can't afford to miss!

SGT. FURY #52: It's a wah-hooing work of war-mag wanderment when Happy Sam Sawyer leads the Howlers into a Nazi prison camp to rescue a captured Allied scientist! Talk about bombshells . . . hoo boy!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #2: The Leathernecks Raiders lock horns with the sensational Samurai Squad in a desperate attempt to halt a world takeover plot by . . . none other than Baron Strucker! It's dynamite!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #14: The FF, Iron Man, Doctor Strange, and the Hulk — all in one action-packed issue you'll never forget — unless you're holding out on the Marvel Age of Comics! (Perish the thought!)

MARVEL TALES #13: Spidey, Thor, Giant-Man, and — latch onto your seat belts — from out of the glorious golden age . . . Marvel Boy, one of the most dramatically different superheroes ever! The House of Ideas has struck again!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Mike Jennings Gary [illegible] David Swenson Philipsburg, N. J.	Nick [illegible] Bethlehem, Pa. Kirk Hastings Wildwood, N. J.	Charles H. [illegible] Montgomery, Ala. [illegible] Koppel Brooklyn, N. Y.	Carlos Ortega Dallas, Tex. R. J. Hall Decatur, Ga.	Joe Mabel Belle, Br. Hond. Robert Rose Pittsburgh, Pa.	Ron Neff Bethlehem, Pa. Dan Kinser Knoxville, Tenn.
David Knoles Loomis, Calif. Barbara Johnson Seaford, N. Y.	Juana Romero Miami, Fla. Bruce Newhoff New Bay Rfld.	Gayle Owens Denton, Texas Randy Knudson Potsdam, N. Y.	[illegible] Tatton N. W. Washington, D.C. Art Romeo Pittsburgh, Pa.	Victor Reinotte Hawthorne, Conn. Ed Rice Chicago, Ill.	David Hansberry Nashua, N. H.

Subscribe to Marvel Comics!

HERE IT IS! PROOF POSITIVE THAT THE BIGGEST BRAINS AT MARVEL ---DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING!

ITEM! Now that you're starting to recover from the sensational shock of seeing CAPTAIN AMERICA and the Incredible HULK in their own magnificent mags -- hold tight! Here comes the next dazzling development in the Second Golden Age of Marvel -- ! On sale right now you'll find three count 'em, THREE!) more titanic titles to beat you out of your tree! You guessed it -- IRON MAN and SUB-MARINER have just been awarded full-length, monthly mags of their own -- and adventuredom will never be the same! You know how valuable a first edition of any other Marvel masterpiece would be today...such as the first edition of FANTASTIC FOUR, or the Amazing SPIDER-MAN ... well, just imagine how much IRON MAN -- and SUB-MARINER #1 will be worth after you've kept them for a while! One thing you can't even begin to imagine is the excitement, drama, and suspense we've jam-packed into each gala premiere ish! So, why waste time with any more chatter? They're on sale now! They're great! Get 'em!

ITEM! But, we mentioned THREE new titles, didn't we? (Thought we goofed again, huh? Nyahh!) Well here's the other one you've been eagerly awaiting -- possibly the biggest, fastest smash-hit to come along since NOT BRAND ECHH! So overwhelming has been the reaction to the new star of MARVEL SUPERHEROES, that we've been forced to give none other than CAPTAIN MARVEL his own full-length monthly mag -- starting now! Yessir, he's on sale at this very minute, proving once again that what a Marvel fan wants -- he GETS! And even THAT isn't all! Read on, rapscallion --

ITEM! We had to do something with MARVEL SUPERHEROES since we kicked C. M. upstairs, and do something we did! We've decided to use this giant-sized, 25¢ bi-monthly mag as a vehicle for experimentation and for presenting the most off-beat strips of all -- both old and new. So just for starters, we're featuring a brand new, never-before-presented, full-length adventure of SPIDER-MAN in the issue of MARVEL SUPERHEROES which is now on sale! However -- it's a different type of Spider-Man -- drawn by a different artist -- just as an experiment. We couldn't decide what to do with it--so, instead of keeping it hidden on a shelf, we thought we'd present it to you and see what you think. The story line is somewhat offbeat and not the usual Spidey adventure, and it's--ahh, why bother! You'll see for yourself in M.S.H. #14!

ITEM! And, speaking of new titles, maniacal Marvel has put together a totally different type of publication, just for a lark! It's a hilarious, laugh-packed illustrated joke book called "GROOVY"! It's on sale now, for no more than the price of any other comic mag--and if laughter's your bag, we urge you to grab a copy. But now, on to other subjects, before you start thinking that we're in this biz for the money!

ITEM! Once again we've received a letter in which we thought all of Marveldom might be interested. So, without any further ado--

> Dear Bullpen, I want to compliment all you guys for the great entertainment your mags bring to the invalids and the ill in our nation's hospitals. Being a volunteer worker at a hospital in Philly, I know how lonely some of the patients are, so I gather up all of my doubles and distribute them among the patients. Unfortunately, I've only enough for one floor, so I'm asking all kids with any extra Marvels to bring them to the nearest hospital if they want to make a lot of patients happy.
>
> Thanks from myself and the many patients for the hours of enjoyment you furnish. Sincerely,
> Josh Zissman
> 6716 N. 17th St. N. Phila. Pa.

Our thanks to you, Josh, for a most worthwhile gesture and a grand idea. May we suggest that all our friends bring Marvel mags -- or indeed, ANY worthwhile periodicals -- to the nearest hospital as often as possible. You may not get a medal, but it's things like that which make life just a little bit nicer for others--and isn't that really what it's all about?

MORE SURPRISES next ish--plus the final rank of Marveldom for you to memorize and treasure forever! But now, since we're running plumb outta room, let's bow our heads for the nonce and think tidy thoughts as we get into the mood for our sermon of the month, delivered as usual by our grinnin' guru--Smilin' Stan himself -- !

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

We TOLD you that Marvel would make '68 the year of the big changes, the big excitement, and the big surprises. Were we right or not? There's a lot more in store for you! We've another couple of new titles to announce on this page next ish -- and still more unexpected goodies to dangle before you as the months speed by! It's all part of a promise, a pledge we made a long time ago, when we vowed to continually improve the quality of comic magazines -- to make you proud to be a Marvelite, (incidentally, didja know that more than a dozen college professors throughout America now use Marvel mags in their English courses as supplemental material? It's only a start -- but we're getting there, gang!) Anyway, we're presently working on a totally new magazine, one which may completely change the whole complexion of the comic book format. We expect it to be the most sensational success since Marvel itself first burst upon the public awareness with the impact of an H-bomb! Watch for clues in the months to come, and till we meet again -- let's be good to each other. There's gotta be SOME hope for a race that keeps reaching for the stars! -- Smiley

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #7: So hilarious that it's still on sale! We don't want anyone to miss the hysterical ORIGIN OF THE FANTASTICAL FOUR or the brain-blasting ORIGIN OF STUPORMAN! But hurry -- there aren't many left!

SPIDER-MAN #60: Have you ever had one of those days when everything goes wrong? Well, when it happens to you or me so what? But when it happens to SPIDEY -- oh lo he's engaged in a life-or-death battle with the craven KINGPIN -- look out!

AVENGERS #51: GOLIATH regains his growing power! THOR battles IRON MAN! The macabre COLLECTOR tries once more to add the AVENGERS to his trophy case! It all adds up to action, loyal one--and we did it just for you!

X-MEN #43: With PROFESSOR X dead, and the new leaderless X-MEN at their lowest ebb -- MAGNETO strikes! This drama drenched powerhouse is an absolute must for all mutant-watchers! 'Nuff said!

DAREDEVIL #39: This is what you've been clamoring for! A new, truly unforgettable arch-villain, named the EXTERMINATOR! (And it's not hard to guess why!) Plus, the return of APE MAN, BIRD MAN, and CAT MAN! All that and DD too! How lucky can ya be?

THOR #181: At last! The mightiest hero of all regains his matchless power during the most dramatic sequence you've ever thrilled to! But, it looks as though it may be too late to gain a vital victory over the DESTROYER -- and, would ja believe -- ULIK!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #101: We're so excited about this one, we can hardly get the words out! Remember the almost legendary tale of the THREE SLEEPERS? Well, it seems there was a FOURTH -- and, not only that -- the RED SKULL lives again! Don't dare miss it!

INCREDIBLE HULK #103: The HULK returns to earth and discovers his lost living friend, RICK JONES, has turned against him! Then, at his lowest ebb he must face the most awesome menace of all -- the SPACE PARASITE!

IRON MAN #1: In this pulse-pounding premiere issue, Shellhead stops an attempt by AIM to duplicate his armor--and at last unmasks the Maggia's loathsome leader, BIG MI Plus, the ORIGIN of IRON MAN! It's too much!

SUB-MARINER #1: At last, the long-awaited "ORIGIN OF SUB MARINER!" -- along with the senses-shattering secret of Subby's amnesia-plagued years! This has to be the most eagerly-anticipated Marvel premiere ever!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #1: Now, in his own magnificent mag, CAPTAIN MARVEL locks horns with the senses-shattering SENTRY in a titanic, twenty-page, epic you'll never forget! At least, we hope not!

STRANGE TALES #168: JIMMY WOO becomes a full-fledged agent of SHIELD while battling a monstrous new menace -- and DOC STRANGE battles YANDROTH for the fateful, final time! This one's for action-lovers only!

SGT. FURY #33. In their most deadly mission yet, the HOWLERS go for broke to capture Hitler's right-hand man from an invincible fortress in the Bavarian Alps! It's the biggest battle-mag blockbuster of 'em all!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #2: Acclaimed such a shell-shocked sensation that we're leaving it on sale for another month--and no wonder, since it features the rip-roaring return of -- BARON STRUCKER!

MARVEL SUPERHEROES #14: An all-new, never before printed super-saga starring the one and only -- SPIDER-MAN! All this plus more golden-age adventures of CAPTAIN AMERICA, SUB-MARINER, and the HUMAN TORCH, for a mere quarter! You'd better believe it!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #14: The FF, Iron Man, Doctor Strange, and the Hulk -- all in one action-packed issue you'll never forget -- unless you're holding out on the Marvel Age of Comics! (Perish the thought!)

MARVEL TALES #14: SPIDEY, GIANT-MAN, THOR, and the magnificent MARVEL BOY -- almost more than mortal Marvelite can bear! It's a must, for you glitzy groovers in the geely general set!

Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S. members!

Joe Koziel, Hazelton, Pa.	Rod Kirby, Baton Rouge, La.	Mike Trimble, Covington, Ky.	E. Kendall, S. Wales, U.K.	Kris Lemmon, Long Grove, Ill.	Steve Kane, Holden, Mass.	
Steve Tomlinson, Saratoga, Calif.	Chris Russell, Indianapolis, Ind.	Gary Theodorski, Holt, Mich.	Jerry Jaffa, Lambertville, Mich.	Mike Reed, Paducah, Ky.	William Nigro, Oceanside, Calif.	
Stephen Tobias, Yellow Springs, Ohio	Bob Hornell, Hopewood, Pa.	Mike Tedford, Cleveland, Ohio	Fred Opelick, Cleveland, Ohio	Tom Tanner, Richmond, Va.	Marvin Kramer, Rego Park, N.Y.	David Louie, San Francisco, Calif.
R. D. Lockerman, Ganca, Tex.	Rich Kullmer, Omaha, Neb.	Barry Haughiam, Grand Prairie, Alberta	Al Lewis, Dallas, Tex.	Ricky Vargas, Wilder, Ind.	Danny Kossick, Phoenix, Ariz.	Randall Lowe, San Francisco, Calif.

THE SENSES-SHATTERING SURPRISES GO ON AND ON—!

ITEM! You knew we'd do it sooner or later! First, we gave CAPTAIN AMERICA and the Incredible HULK their own mags, immediately followed by the cataclysmic appearances of IRON MAN and SUB-MARINER in their own pulse-pounding publications! Now, just as you've demanded, NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD, and the ever-mystifying DR. STRANGE have been awarded their own individual mags — on sale at this very minute (if you can make your way thru the crowds)! Yep, once again munificent Marvel gives you the rare opportunity to acquire a pair of practically priceless collectors' item first editions — as well as the chance to follow the frenzied fabled foibles of two of your favorite far-out frolickers in their own fantasy-filled feature-length books! (If only the word "books" also began with an f, we'd have set some kind of nutty record! Oh well . . .) So, don't waste a minute! For a penny less than two-bits, you can latch onto two of the newest, most exciting titles in print today — the demon-drenched drama of DR. STRANGE, and hard-hitten hang-ups of NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD! Darlin' Doc is drawn by Dapper Dan Adkins, while nitty-gritty Nick is tossed at you by Jaunty Jimmy Steranko! All that's left to say is GRAB 'EM, pilgrim! They're two more of Marvel's finest!

ITEM! Hang loose, hallowed one! You ain't heard nothin' yet! At this very moment — even as you read these mind-expanding words — our bleary-eyed Bullpen brethren are busily creating full-length masterpieces featuring a whole NEW array of Marvel stars — power-packed sensations soon to be headlined in their own strips — all-time greats such as DR. DOOM — KA-ZAR — SILVER SURFER — and others too startling to mention! They'll all be yours in '68, just as we promised! Or, in the words of Fearless Forbush — "Who SAYS this isn't the Second Golden Age of Marvel!"

ITEM! We can't keep you in suspense any longer! It's time to unveil the final rank of Marveldom at last! You've already memorized our first five titles — RFO (Real Frantic One), a buyer of at least three Marvel mags per month — QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer), one who's had a letter printed within our pulsating pages — TTB (Titanic True Believer), he who hath won a No-Prize — KOF (Keeper of the Flame), one who recruits a newcomer to our ranks — and PMM (Permanent Marvelite Maximus) the supreme award for any who already possess the four preceding titles! And now, our special sixth category — FFF (Fearless Front Facer), a purely honorary degree approved and awarded by Smilin' Stan and a carefully chosen committee for devotion to Marveldom above and beyond the call of duty! There you have 'em, faithful one — the complete list of Marvel titles, with which you may sign your daily correspondence, endorse your Nobel Peace Prize, or engrave upon the back of your Phi Beta Kappa pin. Now, if only WE can remember which is which!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #8: Run for the hills, gang — he's back! None other than feeble Forbush-Man has returned, to tackle almost every superhero in sight! It's the whackiest, wildest adventure into hysteria you've ever howled at! And wait'll you see who poor Forbie has to fight!

battle and still come out the loser! Well, it might be hard for you or us — but you've gotta see the maddening end of Spidey's adventure with the Kingpin — and the pounding problem that now awaits him!

AVENGERS #52: The Panther arrives on the Avengers scene — just in time to be accused of murdering everybody's favorite Assembler—and then, to top it all off, along comes—the Grim Reaper! Hooo boy! It's a mind-snapper from start to finish!

X-MEN #44: The high-flying Angel escapes from the clutches of Magneto and dives out to find help — only to be confronted by the most drastically different good-bad guy since the Silver Surfer! We call him . . . the Red Raven — but you're gonna call him — great!

DAREDEVIL #40: Trying to save the world from the Exterminator's dreaded T-Ray, ol' Hornhead himself falls victim to the weirdest weapon of all time! And that's just the way the Ape-Man, Bird-Man, and Cat-Man want it! No wonder we call it "The Fallen Hero!"

MIGHTY THOR #132: We'll never get ourselves out of this one! The pandemonium increases as Odin, Ulik, Loki, Balder, Sif, Karnilla, and the Destroyer — are all tangled up in the most colossally complicated plot since the Iliad!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #102: Well, it finally happened! The fearsome Fourth Sleeper has awakened—and now, just as the Red Skull planned, he sets out to destroy all civilization as we know it! And, while he's at it, Cap has his hands full with the evil Exiles!

INCREDIBLE HULK #106: After Asgardians and awesome aliens, you'd think an earth-born villain would be a pushover for ol' Green Skin! But — not the rampaging Rhino! He's a brain-busting blast!

IRON MAN #2: Would'ja believe a vociferous new villain called...the Demolisher, who possesses all the peerless powers of Iron Man himself? If not, just latch onto this illustrious ish! If it doesn't make a believer of you — we give up!

SUB-MARINER #2: This is it! At long last the most anxiously awaited clash of the year takes place when Triton leaves the Inhumans' sanctuary to tackle Subby — and the seven seas will never be the same again!

MARVEL'S SPACE-BORN SUPER-HERO! CAPTAIN MARVEL #2: With America's greatest missile complex in danger of being obliterated, Captain Marvel must defeat a villain with the combined powers of the Fantastic Four — the Super Skrull!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD (PREMIERE ISH): Following a ghastly assassination attempt on the life of Nick Fury, the stalwarts of SHIELD must learn..."Who Is Scorpio"—or die trying! James Bond fans, eat your hearts out!

DR. STRANGE (PREMIERE ISH!): The Master of the Mystic Arts is finally in a mag of his own — and what more fitting way to kick off this stunning new series than with "The Coming of Dr. Strange!" Amulet polishers everywhere — this one's just for you!

SGT. FURY #54: Because you demanded it! Izzy Cohen blazes into combat again in a death-defying dash for freedom through the steaming jungles of Burma! Does he make it? Only after 20 pages of blockbustin' battle-action will you find out!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #3: With their men captured by the legions of Baron Strucker, Capt. Savage and his Japanese counterpart, Sgt. Joe Morita, must fight side by side for survival on Hydra's island fortress! A guts-and-glory saga you won't forget!

MARVEL SUPERHEROES #14: An all-new, never-before-printed super-saga starring the one and only — SPIDER-MAN! All this plus more golden-age adventures of CAPTAIN AMERICA, SUB-MARINER, and the HUMAN TORCH, for a mere quarter? You'd better believe it!

MARVEL TALES #14: SPIDEY, GIANT-MAN, THOR, and the magnificent MARVEL BOY — almost more than mortal Marvelite can bear! It's a must for you glitzy groovers in this goofy generation!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #15: The FF, Iron Man, Doctor Strange, and the Hulk — all in one incredible issue! Just goes to prove that only Marvel has the mags you never get tired of — Marvel after Marvel!

Check now!... THE MOST SENSATIONAL SCOOP OF THE YEAR!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Okay, we admit it! We just can't keep a secret! We're so excited about our newest and most ambitious project that we've GOT to tell you about it or we'll just burst! Remember how we always tried to upgrade the image of comic magazines? Well, we're now about to take our biggest step towards realizing that goal! Starting next month, mighty Marvel will present an entirely new concept in illustrated adventure tales—a magazine as different from the ordinary comic as a guided missile is different from a spitball!

It'll be bigger than the mag you're now reading — and will be printed on far more expensive, high-quality paper. The cover will be a full-color painting, and the price will be 15¢! Also, since it's a new larger size some dealers may not display it with their comics, but rather among other magazines — so be sure to look for it carefully. And, if you don't see it, ask for it — demand it — cry for it!

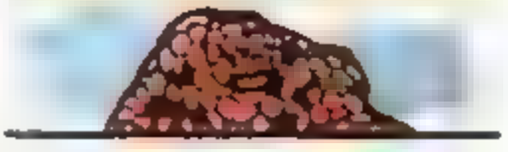
Yet, despite the fact that this sensational issue will be a turning point in magazine history, it will feature the same thrills, action, and spectacular surprises for which Marvel is famous! And the artwork — hoo boy! Just wait till you see those dazzling drawings, clearer, sharper, far more dramatic than you ever imagined any illustrated epic could be!

But now you're wondering about the title! Which character will be featured? You're hoping we selected the right one for so vital a test! Well, face front, flame-keeper! We think we've chosen the very same hero you yourself would have picked — possibly the most popular single fantasy character in the world today — none other than — your friendly neighborhood SPIDER-MAN!

That's all we can tell you now, 'cause we're still writing and drawing like crazy to make our deadline. But, while you're waiting for the big day, be sure to sock away three dimes and a nickel so that you'll have 'em when our 15¢ SPIDEY hits the stands. All of comicdom has been demanding this giant step forward — this long-awaited leap to the next plateau of literary greatness — and soon it will be yours! So whatever you do — wherever you go — don't fumble the ball. By working together, we'll make the comic strip art form more prized and respected than ever thruout the world! And SPIDER-MAN is just the swinger to do it!

Excelsior!

—Smiley



THE SECOND GOLDEN AGE OF MARVEL IS HERE!

(And You Didn't Even Bake A Cake!)

ITEM! To give you an idea how far in advance we have to write these pithy pages, it's the day after Christmas, 1967, at this very moment as we write these lines . . . but you'll probably be reading this sometime in April, 1968! And you wonder why we have trouble remembering things! Anyway, onward —

ITEM! Well, we did it! In the space of a few short months, we've given the HULK, CAPTAIN AMERICA, IRON MAN, SUB-MARINER, SHIELD, and DR. STRANGE their own feature-length magazines — and each and every one is on sale MONTHLY. But, if you expect us to give you a chance to catch your breath, forget it! Here come the latest developments in Marvel's march to a nervous breakdown —

ITEM! From now on, MARVEL SUPERHEROES, our big, brawny 25¢ bi-monthly block-buster, will feature a different super-hero star each issue! And, if your letters are as enthusiastic as we expect them to be, we'll eventually award a complete month-by-mag to our costumed caverters! The first sensational superstar to be so featured — on sale right now — is none other than the miraculous MEDUSA, the gorgeous long-haired siren of the incomparable INHUMANS! Drawn by Genial Gene Colan, we promise you the fantasy thrill of the month, replete with dazzling guest stars and a zillion surprises! And that's only the beginning—!

ITEM! One of our greatest new mags is such a howlin' success that we're gonna print it every two months from now on in a king-sized 25¢ edition! The first of these new special-size editions goes on sale next month — but, till then, see if you can guess which title it is! ALSO — we're introducing a second 25¢-er next month that'll be a brand-new title! (A favorite super-hero guest star of yours but he's never had his own mag before!) There — that'll give you something to think about while you're counting your no-prizes!

ITEM! We're just throwing this little tidbit in for kicks. Did'ja know that MILLIE THE MODEL, the mag we always kid about and poke fun at, has become one of the best-selling titles on our world-famous list? It's a fact! The only explanation we can think of is that there must be more frantic ones than we ever suspected who like nutty stories about a gorgeous blonde model featuring the corniest gags ol' Smiley can write! And how about the RAWHIDE KID? We had almost forgotten that we still publish our last remaining wild-'n-wooly Western until we saw Merry Marty Goodman reading the sales reports with a big grin, and we realized that every "They went thataway" fan in the world must be buying out all the copies! So, thanks to all you literature-lovers for proving once again that the more we know, the less we know!

ITEM! And now, the BIG one! The announcement you've been waiting for! Our precedent-shattering 35¢ SPIDER-MAN Spectacular is now on sale! It features the longest single super-hero thriller ever published in a comics-mag — an actual FIFTY-TWO PAGE mystery-action epic! PLUS — a feature-length ORIGIN OF SPIDER-MAN, completely rewritten and redrawn for this landmark issue! Every wondrous word is from the enchanted pen of our light-hearted leader, Stan the Man — while Jazzy Johnny Romita remodded the 52-pager's artwork, aided by our newest Bullpen great — Jim (Madman!) Mooney! As for the Origin of Spidey, wait'll you see how Larruppin' Larry Lieber breathed new life into that now-classic chronicle. But, the best part of it is the mag itself. Although in comic book format it isn't a comic book! It's a real glossy photo-drenched slick-paper publication! You have to look for it amongst the so-called better magazines at your newsstand — and we promise you this — it'll be worth the trouble! And now a word of advice — after you've bought it don't trade it, lend it or lose it! It's destined to become a highly prized collector's item the minute it's all sold out — which'll be 'most any second now! So don't just stand there, pilgrim — GET IT! You know how we hate to see a grown man cry!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Now that the news is out about our combo-ized Spidey mag, everybody's been asking what'll happen to our web-slinger's regular 12¢ bestseller! The answer is — nothing! It's still being published each and every month, the same as always. The new 35¢ thriller is an ADDITIONAL mag, not a replacement! And while we're on the subject, I've gotta tell you this: There have been very few individual mags which I've personally recommended to you — (mostly because I think they're ALL kinda good) — but this time I'm going way out on a limb. If you buy no other Marvel mag this month, I urge you to latch onto the new SPIDER-MAN Spectacular! It's far more than just another gimmick—it represents an entirely new concept in superhero presentation! It represents possibly Marvel's finest achievement to date — and it contains a mind-staggering hint of things yet to come! This month will go down in history as the month of another new Marvel milestone — and you'll be a part of it! But now, it's time to cut out — before you think we're trying to sell you something! Pax et Justitia!. —Smiley

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Spectacular #1: This is it! Possibly the greatest super-hero mag Marvel has ever produced. Featuring a 52 page shocker entitled "Is This Monster . . . plus the Origin of Spidey. A bargain at twice the price — but not for the timid!

NOT BRAND ECHH #8: Run for the hills, gang — he's back! None other than feeble Forbush-Man has returned, to tackle almost every superhero in sight! It's the whackiest, wildest adventure into hysteria you've ever howled at! And wait'll you see who poor Forbie has to fight!

SPIDER-MAN #62: You never expected it to happen! In fact, WE never expected it to happen! But Spidey has the fight of his life — against Medusa! And adventuredom will never be the same again!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #15, Starring MEDUSA! Having whetted your appetite for the lady with the living hair in SPIDER-MAN, we now present the exciting Inhuman in her own full-length thriller! She and Gene the Dean's artwork, have never been wilder!

AVENGERS #53: Our ever-lovin' assemblers — the extraordinary X-Men — even the baneful Brotherhood of Evil Mutants! And wait'll you dig who finally ends up the howlin' hero in our mind-boggling climax! Sheesh!

X-MEN #45: This ish is the lead-in to AVENGERS #53 — but what a lead-in! You'll see Cyclops battling it out with the one and only Quicksilver — while the lives of his fellow X-Men hang in the balance!

DAREDEVIL #41: It had to happen! You are about to witness "The Death of Mike Murdock!" But, what happens to Matt Murdock? And how does Daredevil battle the Exterminator and his Unholy Three? Well, why not see for yourself?

MIGHTY THOR #153: If you've been wondering what happened to Dr. Don Blake, this is the yarn for you. But maybe we shouldn't tell you that Loki finally has the upper hand!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #103: It's like a nightmare! The girl Cap loves, a prisoner of the deadly Red Skull! And, when he finally saves her, our hero has signed his own death warrant!

INCREDIBLE HULK #105: They call our power-packed villain the Missing Link — and, when you see how he tears into ol' Green Skin, you'll see why the Incredible One wishes he had stayed missing! It's a blast!

IRON MAN #3: Who said we'd forgotten all about Shellhead's pal, Happy Hogan? Not your brain-bustin' Bullpen! But, along with Hap, we've also brought back his evil alter ego . . . the awesomely powerful Freak! Hooo boy!

SUB-MARINER #3: Namor and the titanic Triton — chained together as unwilling allies! The pernicious Plant Man! The walking monstrosity they call the Leviathan! Put them all together, and they spell action!

MARVEL'S SPACE-BORN SUPERHERO! CAPTAIN MARVEL #3: It's a fight to the finish between Mar-Vell and the sterlingly sinister Super Skrull! What's more, we tossed in a minor nuclear holocaust or two — just to keep things hopping!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD #2: On an incredible island — amid danger such as mortal men has never witnessed — the redoubtable leader of Shield must defeat the monsters who defied evolution . . . or perish!

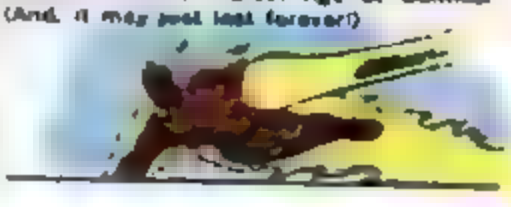
DR. STRANGE #170: For years, you've demanded it! And now, it's here — the return of the reprehensible Nightmare, in the mystically magnificent tale we couldn't resist calling — "To Dream . . . Perchance to Die!"

SGT. FURY #55: Pam Hawley lives — or does she? With those wondrous words ringing in your shell-shocked ears, you are destined to share with our hard-hitten Howler ramrod one of the most startling war-mag sagas of all!

CAPT. SAVAGE #3: Still on sale — if you're lucky! Savage and his Japanese enemy must combine forces to battle for survival on the island fortress of Hydra! A guts-and-glory epic you won't forget!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #15: The FF, Iron Man, Doctor Strange, and the Hulk — all in one incredible issue! Just goes to prove that only Marvel has the mags you never get tired of — Marvel after Marvel!

MARVEL TALES #13: Spidey — Thor — the Human Torch — and Marvel Boy! Four of the best reasons yet for signing up for the duration of the Marvel Age of Comics! (And, it may just last forever!)



GANGWAY, WORLD! MARVEL'S MARCHING ON!

ITEM! We admit it! We can't say "no" to Marveldom Assembled! You've been clamoring for the Silver Surfer in his own mag, and you finally got to us! But we were so carried away by the whole thing that, before we knew it, we had a jumbo-sized 25¢ blockbusting space saga on our hands! Yep, it's on sale now — another truly brilliant production from The House of Ideas — SILVER SURFER #1, featuring perhaps the longest greatest ORIGIN tale you've ever read! Written by our grand guru, Stan the Man, it's illustrated in modern-day majesty by Big John Buscema and Lonesome Joe Sinnott — and wait'll you see the second surprise feature, by Smiley and Gentleman Gene Colan! It's just too much! And it's not just a one-shot bear! SILVER SURFER will be published regularly; so this is your chance to latch onto the first of a new, sizzling, soul-shattering series, as only your bludgeoning Bullpen could produce it!

ITEM! This'll really rock you! Our own monthly little excursion into Marvel madness — namely, NOT BRAND ECHH — has become such a spine-tingling success that we've no choice but to publish it in a new king-sized edition, starting this month! Yep, BRECHH will cost two-bits from now on, but it'll be twice as much mag. And best of all — it's broadening its hysterical horizons, taking pot shots at a much wider variety of screwball subjects! While you're triumphantly snaring the SILVER SURFER, be sure to grab NOT BRAND ECHH also, and you'll have scored the greatest double-play of the month! And incidentally, we're anxious to hear how you like N B E's new title lettering this ish — so clue us in, huh?

ITEM! Naturally, everybody's been talking about Marvel's greatest publishing project of all — the sensational SPIDER-MAN Spectacular which went on sale last month. It's already completely sold out in many areas (such as the neighborhood where Jazzy Johnny's family lives!) — but there are still enough copies printed to be sure that no Marvelite Johnny-Come-Lately will be disappointed. Remember, if you've been having trouble finding this extra-thick, extra-large 35¢ slickpaper mag with its gorgeous oil painting cover, be sure to ask your newsdealer for it. There's a good chance that he's displaying your Spidey Spectacular amongst his more expensive top-selling mags — so be sure to look all over for it, not merely on the comics mag racks. Once you get your greedily-clutching claws on it, you'll see why it was well worth all the trouble — and we're not just wigglin' our webs, pilgrim!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

THE 35¢ SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #1 Still on sale! Half the fun is just trying to FIND it on the mag racks! A brand-new villain, a brand-new 52-page action thriller and a brand-new version of the now famous Origin of Spidey! Don't dare miss it!

NOT BRAND ECHH #9: At last, Brechh goes king-size! Twice as big and twice as hilarious as ever before! More super-stupor-heroes! More giddy gags, groovy gimmicks, and gruesome gargoyles! It's Marvel at its maddest! (And wait'll you see our take-off on Bonnie and Clyde!)

SILVER SURFER #1: Featuring the origin epic of the century! With cameo guest appearances by The Fantastic Four, the Incredible Hulk, and the gargantuan Galactus! A brand-new smash hit starring the most dramatic hero of all time — in an adventure as big as outer space itself!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

We sometimes receive letters accusing us of publishing too many different titles. A number of fans have said it's too expensive trying to buy all our mags, and they ask us not to be so greedy, and to publish less of 'em. So we thought you might like to hear OUR side of it. The only reason we constantly add new titles is because YOU ask for them. Thousands upon thousands of your letters demanded that we give Cap, Shell-Head, Namor, and all the others their own magazines. In fact, remember when we tried to discontinue the Hulk some years ago? Your unceasing outcry forced us to bring him back, despite the fact that it imposed a tremendous strain upon our already overworked staff. And each time we try to publish fewer 25¢ summer Specials, you swamp us with letters demanding more than ever. Personally, we'd be happy to let up a bit. Many of us, including yours truly, haven't had a vacation in years! But, our policy was, is, and always will be to give Marveldom what it asks for, and judging by our ever-skyrocketing sales, we're not far from the mark. That's the lowdown, loyal one. We don't want you to spend all your bread on our mags, honest. But, so long as the dramatic demand for them continues, we can't turn a deaf ear. Anyway, remember this: no matter how many stories we create each month, our credo will always be the same — Nil Nisi Optimus — nothing but the best! Excelsior!

— Smiley

FANTASTIC FOUR #77: Trapped in the most indescribable world of all, the greatest team of superheroes on earth battles for their lives against the uncanny Psycho-Man — while the Silver Surfer and Galactus come face-to-face once more!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #15: One of the greatest! The most glamorous Inhuman of all — the magnificent, mysterious Medusa, in a feature-length blockbuster with guest-stark galore, and the amazingly awesome artwork of Gentleman Gene Colan! How much suspense can you stand?

AVENGERS #56: Never before such an awesome array of baneful baddies! The mind-bending Melter — the sinister Klaw — Radioactive Man — Whirlwind — and the enigmatic Black Knight — all led by the mysterious Crimson Cowl! Six great reasons to buy this spectacular ish!

X-MEN #46: This is it! The story you thought you'd never see . . . the event you thought would never happen . . . "The X-Men Split Up!" — But not before they must once again face the most deadly of all enemies — the Juggernaut! It's a mutant mind-snapper!

DAREDEVIL #42: A brand-new super-powered arch-foe makes the scene, as the exciting Jester is born! But what about DD? With his "brother" Mike now dead, how can Matt Murdock face one of the most astonishingly different villains of his career?

MIGHTY THOR #154: Can you picture a menace so powerful that even Ulik fears him? Well, mighty Thor has to do more than picture him! If the Thunder God can't find a way to defeat the monstrous Mangog, all of Asgard is doomed — and Loki will triumph at last!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #104: So long as Cap wears a strip of nuclear tape at the back of his neck, he must be a slave to the Red Skull! But, if he should take it off, he dies! We don't know how even Stan and Jack can help our shield-swingin' Avenger get out of this one!

INCREDIBLE HULK #106: The senses-shattering climax of the cataclysmic clash between our green-skinned goliath and the madly malicious Missing Link! It's a wallopin' super-saga you'll never forget!

IRON MAN #4: Remember the uncanny Unicorn, from the early days of mighty Marvel? Well, he's back — with enough pure, unadulterated power to knock even our great golden gladiator for a loop! It's action time . . . in the joltin' Johnny Craig style! And talk about suspense—!

SUB-MARINER #4: At long last, Prince Namor returns to his wandering subjects just in time to find them menaced by one of the most awesome sub-sea conquerors of all . . . the evil Attuma! Plus some of the wildest mind-staggering underwater battle-scenes in comic mag history!

MARVEL'S SPACE-BORN SUPERHERO! CAPTAIN MARVEL #4: While the world's greatest city holds its breath, our cosmic crusader slugs it out with the sensational Sub-Mariner! But, which is hero — and which is villain? Don't answer till you read the whole ish!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD #3: If you think jaunty Jim Steranko's gone way out before, wait'll you see the phantoms, demons, and cavortin' creatures he concocted to menace Fury and company in . . . "The Hel Hound of Ravenlock!" It's a shocker!

DR. STRANGE #171: You've asked for it — you've demanded it — and now you've got it! Our mystic master begins the long-delayed search for his beloved Clea, which leads him into a dread new dimension — and leaves him at the mercy of his most magically malevolent foe! 'Nuff said!

SGT. FURY #56: You'll hold your breath as Gabe Jones, at his bugle-blowin' best, goes all out to rescue a beautiful jazz singer from a Nazi stronghold — with a little help from his Wah-Hoooin' buddies natch! After this, war mags may never be the same!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #4: At last, Captain Savage and Baron Strucker clash head-on in a deadly struggle for control of Hydra Island! All this and the origin of Hydra, too! Have to add up to the biggest battle-mag bargain of the Marvel Age!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #16: The FF, Iron Man, Dr. Strange, and the Hulk in some of the greatest, never-to-be-forgotten epics from the past! When we call it a collectors' item, we're not just whistlin' "The Merry Marvel Mazurka!"

MARVEL TALES #15: Spidey — Thor — the Human Torch — and Marvel Boy! Four of the best reasons yet for signing up for the duration of the Marvel Age of Comics! (And, it may just last forever!)

MORE HYSTERICAL HOOPLA AND HANGUPS FROM YOUR HOWLIN' HOUSE OF IDEAS!

ITEM! Remember when STAN THE MAN wrote just about every superhero yarn we published during the early days of Marvel? Well, the reason we've been able to expand our output and to bring you more of the mags you've been clamoring for is because we've gradually found other scripters who've been able to capture the mad, modern Marvel mood. The first of these sensational scribes is our now-associate editor, Rascally ROY THOMAS, our poker-playing pundit of the pandemonious plot! Next, we latched onto an old buddy of Roy's, Groovy GARY FRIEDRICH, our swingin', singin', folk-song-singin' assistant ed. But, not content to rest on our laurels, we were lucky enough to snare Affable ARCHIE GOODWIN, former editor, author, and blushin' bon vivant, who brings his own scintillatin' style to the majesty of Marvel. And now, just a few months later, we announce with pride that another two stalwarts who've toiled elsewhere for lo these many years have finally seen the light and joined the ranks of True Believers here at the batty Bullpen. (We'll introduce 'em in another ish.) So, where once there was just poor slavin' long suffering Stan, our leader now has five fabulous, far out fantasy writin' friends to help us prove we mean it when we say "Hang onto your hat, hero — Marvel's taking over the world!" (Or, wouldja believe Yancy Street?)

ITEM! But, with every bit of good news, there is often its exact opposite. And so, with heavy hearts, we announce the departure of one of the Bullpen's most popular pixies — Fabulous FLO STEINBERG who bids us a fond farewell to seek her fortunes in another field of endeavor. Lovely Feb had won the collective hearts of Marveldom Assembled in the years during which she helped to answer the ever-growing mountain of mail which sometimes threatened to engulf us all. Face Front, Flo! The best of luck to you where e'er you go.

ITEM! For those of you who've been vacationing on another planet for the past few months, we're gonna repeat the six swingin' ranks of Marveldom for serious study and transcendental meditation! Now for Odin's sake, memorize 'em carefully 'cause we're starting to get writers cramps!

RFO (Real Frantic One): A buyer of at least 3 Marvel mags each month.

QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer): A fortunate frantic one who's had a letter printed.

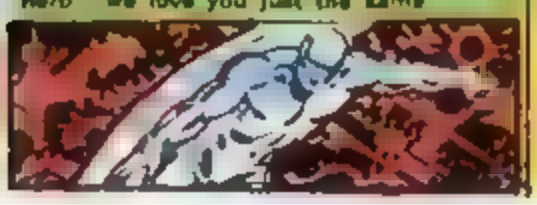
TTB (Titanic True Believer): A divinely inspired no-prize winner.

KOF (Keeper Of the Flame): One who recruits a newcomer to Marvel's rollickin' ranks.

PMM (Permanent Marvelite Maximus): Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.

FFF (Fearless Front Facer): An honorary title, bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

But even if you're just a lowly F.F.M. (Full o' Forbush Man) natch!) take heart hero — we love you just the same.



STAN'S SOAPBOX

This one's a real surprise! You've seen Herb Trimpe's name listed as "inker" all over the place in our mags. Well, a few weeks ago we saw some of his original drawings and realized that we've had an exciting, top-notch penciller hidden right under our quivering noses! So, not being shy, we asked Happy Herbie what he'd like to draw and he told us. It seems that Mr. Trimpe is a dyed-in-the-wool fan of World War I airplane dogfights! And, since the rest of your Bullpen are shameless superhero fans, we decided to combine the two. Which is just our long-winded way of talking you not to dare miss MARVEL SUPERHEROES #16, which features one of the most daringly different superheroes of all — The Phantom Eagle! And now, we've gotta cut out — Country Joe and the Fish just arrived to visit us — and we don't wanna keep 'em out of the water too long!

Excelsior,

Smiley

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

THE 15¢ SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #1 Last chance, web-spinners! The great second ish goes on sale next month, and these'll be gone forever. We couldn't sleep nights if we thought you'd missed the longest Spidey saga ever presented! And oh, that artwork!

NOT BRAND ECHH #9: This one, too, is on sale for a second month, to make sure that no Flame-Keeper among you misses it! It's got more pages, laughs and lunacy than ever before. And dig those sizzlin' superheroes!

SILVER SURFER #1: Featuring the longest, and possibly the greatest Origin story ever illustrated! There's no doubt about it — the Silver Surfer is certain to equal Spidey himself in popularity! And we should worry — they're both ours!

SPIDER-MAN #64. Now that Spidey knows the Vulture lives again, he has to answer another question — how can one lone wall-crawler, with more problems than he can waggle a web at, defeat the most deadly foe of all?

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #16: Just as we promised you — a full-length blockbuster of mystery and action, starring the all-new Phantom Eagle! Plus, the usual mildly magnificent mish-mash of masked misanthropes!

AVENGERS #58: So you think you learned the full secret of the dread Crimson Cowl last ish? Well don't believe it, pilgrim . . . 'til you see the Avengers slug it out to the finish with his malevolent Masters of Evil! Hoo-boy!

X-MEN #47: The spotlight this month is on Iceman and the ever-exciting Beast, as they clash head-on with the mysterious Mahk Yogi! And when you find out who he really is, you'll know why he's a lot more dangerous than he sounds!

DAREDEVIL #43: No, it's not a gag! It's not an (echh!) imaginary tale! It's for real! DD finally battles the one and only — Captain America — with no punches pulled! It's the action-hit of the month — a brain-blaster!

MIGHTY THOR #155: Truly one of Thor's most epic sagas! Although the Thunder God has battled many foes before, never has any come as close to the destruction of the entire universe as has — Mangog! This one's a must!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #108: Zowie! Look who's back — none other than the bludgeoning Batroc, accompanied by the Living Laser and the sinister Swordsman! For fantastic action beyond compare, wait'll you see Cap tackle "Batroc's Brigade"!

INCREDIBLE HULK #107: Our green-skinned golem faces not one, but three deadly threats — the far-eastern counterpart of Shield, the menacing Mandarin — and perhaps the one thing that even his titanic strength can't combat!

IRON MAN #5: Possibly the most unusual transistorized saga of all, as our great go-den avenger rockets into the far future, where public enemy number one is none other than — Tony Stark! And wait'll you meet Cerebrus!

SUB-MARINER #5: For all those frantic ones who thought we'd never come up with a non-Atlantean underwater baddie for Namor to fight, we proudly present the one and only Tiger Shark! He's deep-six dynamite!

MARVEL'S SPACE-BORN SUPERHERO! CAPTAIN MARVEL #5. Who — or what — is the amazing Metazoid? Don't even try to guess — until you see him come face to face with the spaceman called Mar-Vell in an action packed, TNT-charged duel to the death! Nuff said!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD #4: With vengeance in his merciless heart . . . with super weapons which beggar description — the evil entity called Scorpio strikes again at Nick Fury, the man he is pledged to destroy! Not for the timid!

DR. STRANGE #172: Dormammu's back — and Doc Strange has got him! Or, is it the other way around? And, breathes there a Marvelite who'll dare miss Gentleman Gene Colan's great art job on our favorite mystic master?

SGT. FURY #57: It's a mission of mercy, as Fury and his hard-hittin' Howlers plummet into Hitler-land to rescue Jim Morita's captured Nisei Squad from a Nazi POW camp! Need we say more, battle-mag buffs?

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #8: Who but mind-bending Marvel would dare put out a war-mag about . . . a counterfeiting plot! But, if you think they're in for a milk run — forget it! It's a block-bustin', brain-boggling blast!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #18: The FF, Iron Man, Dr. Strange, and the Hulk in some of the greatest never-to-be-forgotten epics from the past! When we call it a collectors' item, we're not just whistlin' "The Merry Marvel Mazurka!"

MARVEL TALES #18: The Beetle — Tomorrow Man — Plant Man . . . and the sinister Serpent! (Against Spidey, Thor, the torrid Torch, and Marvel Boy, natch!) A foursome of the most senses-staggering battles since the Bulge!

ITEMS OF INCREDIBLE IMPORT TO ILLUMINATE YOUR INTEREST, INVIGORATE YOUR IMAGINATION, AND INTOXICATE YOUR ID!

ITEM! Hey, didja see the great plug we got in a recent ish of TV GUIDE? If not, don't despair! It went like this: "Marvel has become champ of the comic-book game — $0,000,000 books a year, with a high number of them selling to college kids." There was lots more, but you might think we're bragging! So, we'll just end with a tintinnabulatin' "Thanx" to the guys 'n gals at the Guide ... 'cause you know how modest we are!

ITEM! Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the tremendous new team of Genial GENE COLAN and Tender TOM PALMER as they join forces to illustrate DR. STRANGE. If ever a penciller and inker were born for each other—! They're dynamite! And the same goes for Gentle JOHNNY CRAIG whom, in a moment of sheer inspiration, we've assigned to ink the power-packed pencil'ing of Lonesome GEORGE TUSKA on IRON MAN! And, when DR. DOOM finally stars in his own strip, wait'll you see who the artists are! Yep, the ol' Bullpen is always bean-counting with talent, but right about now we're threatening to burst at the seams! So, just keep watching, web-heads-to-be!

ITEM! When we get a letter like this we can't just toss it away. So here's where we share it with you — "Dear Stan: Any Marvel maniacs who'd like to write a G.I. over here can address ANY LONELY SOLDIER c/o USO, APO SAN FRANCISCO [illegible] Yours truly, Sgt. Mac Mercer (A.K.A. Mighty Mac)" 'Nuff said!

ITEM! In case you've been wondering, ol' SPIDEY and the ever-lovin' FANTASTIC FOUR are still causing a riot among the ratings on nationwide TV — to say nothing of SUBBY, THOR, GREEN SKIN, CAP, and SHELL-HEAD! And, if the flood of toys and games produced for us by LOUIS MARX, OHIO ART, WESTERN PUBLISHING, and KENNER TOYS, just to name a few, doesn't send our younger believers into orbit, we'll never visit Yancy Street again! — And by the way, just a reminder to check our new chandising page for those fabulous fur-out plastic pillows of Thor and Spidey — and to latch onto the latest, greatest ish of Marvel's glitzy gag mag — GROOVY #3!

ITEM! Wanna know the name of our newest writer? He's none other than Artful ARNOLD DRAKE, the lovable king-size leprechaun who combines his own unique dramatic quality with a fabulous flair for biting satire and crafty characterization! Arnie is certain to make his mark in the hallowed halls of Marvel — if we can keep him away from those endless movies he so dearly loves to write! Welcome aboard, A. D. — it figgers to be a rollickin' ride all the way!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Items On Sale Right Now!

SGT. FURY SPECIAL #4: Still on sale ... if your luck's holding out! To convince you that this one'll be a war-thing classic, we need only tell that the subject is ... The Battle of the Bulge! 'Nuff said!

SILVER SURFER #2: Marvel's newest and most daringly dramatic superhero returns to thrill you again as he battles the startling occupants of a fearsome flying saucer.

SPIDER-MAN #45: A totally different type of Spidey adventure, as the world's favorite webhead must protect his secret identity — while becoming embroiled in a deadly romance!

MARVEL SUPERHEROES #16: Just as we promised you — a full-length blockbuster of mystery and action, starring the all-new Phantom Eagle! Plus, the usual mildly magnificent mish-mash of masked misanthropes!

AVENGERS #35: He's back — at last! Can temporarily rejoins the Avengers to journey back into time and learn the true fate of Bucky Barnes! This one's a shocker!

AVENGERS SPECIAL #2: In answer to an awesome avalanche of requests! The new Avengers battle to the death with the original Avengers ... in a world they never made! An all-new, once-a-year wonder!

X-MEN #47: The beginning of new lives for Cyclops and Marvel Girl — and a senses-shattering new villain called ... Computo! It's a double-dose of mutant magic as only Marvel can cook it, to you!

DAREDEVIL #44: There are many things we could tell you about this sensational ish to send you into orbit! But, the thrilling theme alone should do the trick — DD's wanted for murder!

MIGHTY THOR #136: Ragnarok — the destruction of the entire universe — is getting closer by the second — and even the Thunder God seems powerless to halt it! This one's a classic in our own time!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #108: An epic so daring we hardly know how to describe it! It involves a new variety of villains — a new, surprising locale, and a new type of action! Not for the timid!

INCREDIBLE HULK #106: If you think ol' Green Skin is in a jam just 'cause Col. Yuri Dreiser's hot on his trail ... just wait'll the malevolent Maestro explodes upon the scene! It's dynamite!

HULK SPECIAL #2: To celebrate his first sizzlin' special, who could possibly battle our jolly juggernaut to a standstill — or worse! How about the ever-new, ever-surprising ... Inhumans!

IRON MAN #6: Tell about tantalizing [illegible] ... you see the return of the Crusher ... and what it does to Shell-Head! We guarantee it'll blow your mind!

SUB-MARINER #9: Namor slugs it out with the titanic Tiger Shark for the throne of Atlantis — while Destiny waits in the wings! After this, skin-diving may never be the same!

HOT BRAND ECHH #9: This one, too, is on sale for a second month, to make sure that no Flame-Keeper among you misses it. It's got more pages, laughs, and loonacy than ever before.

CAPTAIN MARVEL #6: How can you stop a bear-blasting baddie who possesses all the solar-blast power of the sun itself? You'll never forget Mar-Vell's astonishing answer!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD #5: Our dauntless director of SHIELD nonchalantly wonders ... "What Ever Happened To Scorpio?" — only to wish he'd never found out! Stranko strikes again!

DR. STRANGE #173: This is it! The event you thought would never take place! The dreaded Dormammu finally invades earth, and when Doc Strange tries to stop him — watch out!

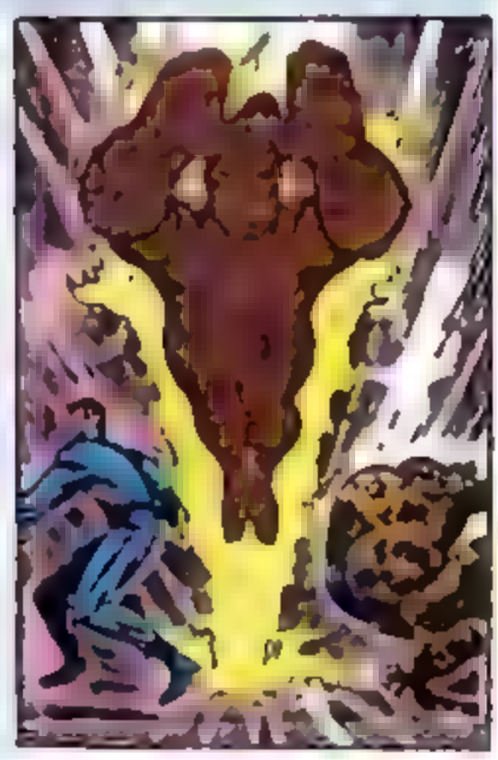
SGT. FURY #58: You won't believe your baby-blues ... and neither will the Howlers, when they're confronted by Hitler's Agent of 1,000 Faces! It's blood-and-guts battle action all the way!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #6: Only a desperate effort by the Leatherneck Raiders can save [illegible] from a daring rescue! Take over, pal! You dare not miss "Mission: Destroy The Invisible Enemy!"

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #17: The F.F., Iron Man, and Doc Strange — all in one incredible ish that will leave you begging for more! Further proof that Marvel had a better idea first!

MARVEL TALES #16: The Beetle — Tomorrow Man — Plant Man — and the sinister Serpent! (Against Spidey, Thor, the terrific Torch, and Marvel Boy, natch!) A foursome of the most senses-staggering battles since Forbush asked for a raise!

TALES OF ASGARD #1: It's true! Just to show that nobody can take mixed-up Marvel for granted, we're sockin' you with a giant-sized Thor-Asgard surprise Special, recreating the greatness and glory of the Thunder God's early days! Face it — it's a must!



STAN'S SOAPBOX

This month we're gonna yak about something that has nothing to do with our mags. Over the years we've received a zillion letters asking for the Bullpen's opinion about such diverse subjects as Viet Nam, civil rights, the war on poverty, and the upcoming election. We're pe-tarmagorically flattered that our opinion would matter to you, but here's the hang-up: there ISN'T any unanimous Bullpen opinion about anything except possibly mother love and apple pie! Take the election, for example. Some of us are staunch Democrats, and others dyed-in-the-wool Republicans. As for Yours Truly and a few others, we prefer to judge the person, rather than the party line. That's why we seek to avoid editorializing about controversial issues — not because we haven't our opinions, but rather because we share the same diversity of opinion as Americans everywhere. But, we'd like to go on record about one [illegible] we believe that Man has a divine destiny and an awesome responsibility — the responsibility of treating all who share this wondrous world of ours with tolerance and respect — judging each fellow human on his own merit, regardless of race, creed, or color. That we agree on — and we'll never rest until it becomes a fact, rather than just a cherished dream!

Excelsior,

Smilay

STOP THE PRESSES! HERE'S SOME SCOOPS AND SCUTTLEBUTT TO KNOCK YOU OUTTA YOUR TEEPEE!

ITEM! Merciful Marvel has seven swingin' SPECIALS on sale right now — The far-out FANTASTIC FOUR, featuring a certain brain-blasting blessed event — The Amazing SPIDER-MAN, presenting the startling secret of Peter's mom and dad — The Incredible HULK, fighting in the land of the Inhumans — the ever-lovin' SGT. FURY and his Howlers, contributing their block-bustin' bit to the Battle of the Bulge — The Mighty AVENGERS, meeting and fighting the Original Avengers — the mad mod MILLIE THE MODEL, bringing you a bevy of bedlam, beauty, and batty belly laughs — and for a totally unexpected, titanic treat, the majestic TALES OF ASGARD, possibly the most beautiful presentation issue of all time. There! We did our part! The rest is up to you!

ITEM! Notice anything different this ish? There are more letters than ever on our letters pages — 'cause we've been omitting the usual answers. It's a real "first" for Marvel, and we decided to do it because we thought you yourselves might enjoy answering each other (as well as giving us more time to spend on the yarns them selves!) So, from now on, when a frantic one brings up an objection, criticism, or query, we'll wait till some other frenzied fan retaliates, and award our usual ubiquitous No-Prizes for the best "get-the-poor-old-Bullpen-off-the-hook answers. Besides, you'll get lots more letters per page this way. So, let us know how you like our agonizin' new approach, okay?

ITEM! Let's see what's doing in the bludgeoning Bullpen these days! Rascally ROY THOMAS is knockin' 'em dead with his new Nehru threads and guru goatee! Groovy GARY FRIEDRICH will be sending us his scripts from Hollywood for the next few months! Jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA bought himself a new set of wheels, and now you can't even get him to walk across the street! Jolly JACK KIRBY won three "Best Artist" awards from different fan groups in just one week! Dashin' DONNIE HECK made his first visit to the Bullpen in months, and didn't recognize SMILIN' STAN in his nutty new beard! Jaunty JIMMY STERANKO not only writes and draws his strips — but he colors 'em, too! (Watch out, Artie and Sam — if he ever finds a lettering pen — !) Every time we wanna make Merry MARIE SEVERIN happy we promise that her brother, Long JOHN SEVERIN will soon be inking one of her gunchy yarns! (And, he will — soon as he gets the time!) We don't know how Darlin' DICK AYERS can do so many war stories without getting battle fatigue. He doesn't get a vacation — he takes a furlough! Oops — we're running out of room! More next ish!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #2: Stop the presses! Here's the biggest news of the year! In answer to a zillion desperate demands, our sensational new 35-center is now printed in full, glorious color! And it stars the vile villainy of the Green Goblin! Don't just sit there, citizen!

THE WORST FROM NOT BRAND ECHH #10: The fouled-up Fantastical Four, Spidey-Man vs. Gnat-Man, and all the other sickening sagas that won't stay dead, in one single, intolerable issue!

SILVER SURFER #2: Marvel's newest and most daringly dramatic superhero returns to thrill you again as he battles the startling occupants of a fearsome flying saucer.

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Remember last ish, when we told you we'd shy away from editorializing? Well, no sooner did we go to press than a flood of new letters arrived, concerning the great "Soapbox controversy," and the vast majority went like this:

> Dear Stan: In your recent Soapbox column, you asked if Marveldom Assembled wanted you to editorialize more. I vote "yes." What has separated Marvel from other mags is that you have a definite profound philosophy to express, and the way you express it is beautiful. Marvelism is fast becoming a philosophical movement. A prime example of this can be found in the Silver Surfer, one of the most moralistic characters ever created. Marvel Comics are the voice of a new breed of intellectual. Therefore editorializing is virtually a necessity.
>
> Achille D. DiBacco
> 1701 Terrace Dr. West
> Lake Worth, Florida

So, that sinks it! From now on, whenever we have something to get off our collective chest, we'll assume we have a magniloquent mandate to sock it to ya, and let the chips fall where they may.

Excelsior!
Smiley

Next ish, "What is a bigot?"

FANTASTIC FOUR #60: Who says this isn't the age of Marvel surprises? Just when you thought we'd forgotten about him — Wyatt Wingfoot returns — and how!

FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL #5: It's almost too much! Our heroes are trapped in another world, while Sue finally gives birth to — WOW!

SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL #5. Here's where Spidey learns the truth about his long-gone parents — in the most off-beat Special of the year!

AVENGERS #57: Hero — or killer? Human — or monster? These are the questions the Avengers must answer about the sinister Vision . . . if he doesn't destroy them first!

AVENGERS SPECIAL #2: Our answer to an avalanche of requests! The new Avengers battle to the death with the original Avengers . . . in a world they never made!

MARVEL SUPERHEROES #17. You requested it — and now you've got it! The sensational Black Knight in a new kind of story — with a new kind of far-out foe! And oh, that artwork!

X-MEN #43: Our marvelous misfits are back together again . . . but can their combined might stand against an army of mutants led by the malevolent Mesmero?

DAREDEVIL #41: When we give a hero his lumps, we don't kid around! This time we've got poor DD in a trap with no escape! It'll really rock ya!

MIGHTY THOR #167: This is the one we've been leading up to! If Mangog draws the Odinsword, it means the end of the world! And — he's drawing it! Hang on, heroes!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #107: One of the strangest of all Cap's thrillers! Will our hero be destroyed by madness — or will Dr. Faustus get him first? Quien Sabe?

INCREDIBLE HULK #108: Zowee! Story by Stan Lee! Layouts by Frank Giacoia! Guest-starring a fighting-mad Ka-Zar. If Green Skin was great before, he's endsville now!

HULK SPECIAL #1: To celebrate his first sizzlin' special, who could possibly battle our jolly juggernaut to a standstill? How about the phantasmagoric — Inhumans?

IRON MAN #7: It's a battle to the finish with the malevolent Maggia, and the odds are on our golden Avenger's side, until enter the Gladiator! 'Nuff said!

SUB-MARINER #7: Wouldja believe . . . Destiny for President! At long last, Namor faces the one foe he hates most of all — in one of our most startling climaxes!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #7: Mar-Vell thinks he's seen everything our ever-lovin' planet can throw at him — and then he meets the living, loathing entity — Quasimodo!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD #6: Who are . . . the Others? Without human compassion . . . beyond good and evil . . . they stand ready to annihilate the earth!

DR. STRANGE #174: You've never heard of the nefarious Nekron before, but take it from us — after this you'll never forget him! The most mystic battle of all!

SGT. FURY #59: We call this one "D-Day for Dum Dum" as our mustachioed war horse faces a life and death challenge with the Howlers unable to help him!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #7: If we have to tell you any more than that the rocking Raiders risk all to rescue a Marine ace named Ben Grimm — but, we kinda figure we don't!

TALES OF ASGARD #1: Just to show that nobody can take mixed-up Marvel for granted, here's a giant-sized Thor-Asgard surprise Special, recreating the greatness and glory of the Thunder God's early days!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #17. The FF, Iron Man and Doc Strange — all in one incredible ish that will leave you begging for more! Further proof that Marvel had a better idea first!

MARVEL TALES #17: A titanic trio of twice-told tales, starring the mighty Thor, the Human Torch, and the one and only Spidey! A block-bustin' bargain ish, if ever we saw one!

A PLETHORA OF PRONOUNCEMENTS UP FOR GRABS

ITEM: Recently, the largest group of comic book fans in the nation recently completed their annual International Convention of Comic Art, at New York's famed Statler-Hilton Hotel. As the dyed-in-the-wool buffs among you know, comic fans give annual awards similar to the movie industry's Oscars, and TV's Emmies. Well, we're still reeling from the results of this year's awards — awards in which mighty Marvel captured the top spot in just about every single major category. And now, without any further ado, we proudly present the results of one of your blushin' Bullpen's greatest triumphs — (results that are so flattering, you'd almost guess that Irving Forbush cast the only votes!)

BEST MAGS:

Best Adventure Comic (Single Character): SPIDER-MAN

Best Adventure Comic (Groups): FANTASTIC FOUR

Best Western Comic: (A) GHOST RIDER (B) RAWHIDE KID (C) KID COLT, OUTLAW

Best War Comic: SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS

Best Costumed Hero Humor: NOT BRAND ECHH!

Best All-Reprint: FANTASY MASTERPIECES (Now Marvel SUPER-HEROES)

Best Combination New and Reprint: MARVEL SUPER HEROES

Best Regular Short Feature: (A) TALES OF ASGARD, (B) THE INHUMANS

NOTE: One category in this division in which we won no award was Best Juvenile Humor! In fact, since it was Juvenile humor we're proud to say we didn't even receive a nomination!

BEST PROFESSIONAL WORK:

Best Editor: STAN (The Man) LEE

Best Writer: Smilin' STAN, again! (The second consecutive year in which our leader has won both top professional awards!)

Best Pencil Artist: JACK (King) KIRBY

Best Inker: Jollin' JOE SINNOTT

CHARACTER POPULARITY POLL:

Best Costumed Hero: SPIDEY

Best Non-Super-Powered Character: Ol' NICK FURY.

Best Super Powered Group: (A) FANTASTIC FOUR (B) AVENGERS

Best Supporting Character: (A) J. JONAH JAMESON (B) FOGGY NELSON (C) JASPER SITWELL

Best Supporting Female: (A) MARY JANE WATSON (B) GWEN STACY

Best Villain: (A) DR. DOOM (A runaway favorite with over 50% of the total vote!), (B) RED SKULL, (C) YELLOW CLAW

Well, that's it — probably the greatest smash-hit for any single company in any communications medium — a big hand to the countless members of the Society who voted for us and gave us Fanzy of their time and efforts to make the Comic Book the success it was, so how 'bout that big and deep appreciation. And to our valiant competitors who had to content themselves with the bulk of the also-ran awards, better luck next year. Competition such as this is healthy for everybody, and will force us all to keep on our toes so that, in the long run, it is YOU, the reader, who is the real victor — and isn't that the way it should be?

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Let's lay it right on the line. Bigotry and racism are among the deadliest social ills plaguing the world today. But unlike a team of costumed supervillains, they can't be halted with a punch in the snoot, or a zap from a ray gun. The only way to destroy them is to expose them — to reveal them for the insidious evils they really are. The bigot is an unreasoning hater — one who hates blindly, fanatically and indiscriminately. If his hang-up is black — man, he hates ALL black men. If a redhead once offended him, he hates ALL redheads. If some foreigner beat him to a job, he's down on ALL foreigners. He hates people he's never seen — people he's never known — with equal intensity — with equal venom. Now, we're not trying to say it's unreasonable for one human being to bug another. But, although anyone has the right to dislike another individual, it's totally irrational, patently insane to condemn an entire race — to despise an entire nation — to vilify an entire religion. Sooner or later, we must learn to judge each other on our own merits. Sooner or later, if man is ever to be worthy of his destiny, we must fill our hearts with tolerance. For then, and only then, will we be truly worthy of the concept that man was created in the image of God — a God who calls us All — His children.

Pax et Justitia,

Stan

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SILVER SURFER #1: [illegible] powerful [illegible] Mephistos, the Lord of the Lower Depths!

NOT BRAND ECHH #11: Spidey-Man, Sunk-Mariner, plus the nuttiest parody [illegible] you ever laid eyes on! A [illegible]

SPIDER-MAN #97: The battle you've been begging for — Spidey vs. Mysterio, with no quarter asked or given! A sensation!

AVENGERS #58: A new life for the Black Panther — while the quest for the Vision's human identity leads to deadly disaster!

X-MEN #50: This is all we've gotta tell you — jaunty Jim Steranko did the awesome art for this once-in-a-lifetime issue!

DAREDEVIL #46: Oh! Finally realizes what the [illegible] up to. And when [illegible] sight, it's swashbuckler gets mad — Wow!

MIGHTY THOR #158: One of Marvel's most daring experiments — the old and the new skillfully intertwined! So be it!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #108: Armed with the [illegible] power [illegible] against [illegible]

INCREDIBLE HULK #110: Guest starring Ka-Zar! Introducing the uncanny Umbu! Featuring the death of Bruce Banner! It's dynamite!

IRON MAN #8: If you thought the Crimson Dynamo was dangerous before — wait'll you see him close in on ol' Shellhead this time!

SUB-MARINER #8: It's action — action — action — as Namor battles the fighting-mad Thing! With a climax that'll rock ya!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #8: From out of nowhere appears a rampaging [illegible] robot. Its mission: destroy Walt Lawn!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD #7: Are they [illegible] members of SHIELD? Is [illegible] greatest heroes — or his sworn murderers? Wait and see!

DR. STRANGE #175: From the sunless [illegible] beneath our very feet comes the [illegible] of Atlantis' Hoop boy!

SGT. FURY #60: Dum Dum gets court martialed [illegible] and no battle-mag buff has [illegible] more than that! [illegible]

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #8: [illegible] Savage's [illegible] Raiders, the mission's just [illegible] But it may end in [illegible] death!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #18: Still the greatest Bullpen bargain of all! It's spearheaded by the FF . . . so how can ya lose?

AND, STILL ON SALE — (IF YOU'RE LUCKY!)

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #2: Now printed in full, glorious color! Starring Spidey vs. the mysterious Green Goblin!

MARVEL TALES #17: Starring the mighty Thor, the Human Torch, and the ever-lovin' Spidey. Only 'cause we love ya!

PLUS, THESE PANDEMONIOUS, POWER-PACKED ONCE-A-YEAR SPECIALS.

FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL #6: Our heroes are trapped in the Negative Zone, while Reed Richards becomes — a father!

SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL #5: Peter Parker finally learns the shocking truth about the parents he has never known!

AVENGERS SPECIAL #2: The new Avengers battle to a finish with the original Avengers — in a world they never made!

HULK SPECIAL #1: All you could ask for! The strongest living creature of all finally tackles — the Inhumans!

TALES OF ASGARD #1: It just has to be the most beautiful mag of all! You'll wish you could frame each and every page!

A TITANIC TREASURE-TROVE OF TRAUMATICALLY TEMPTING TID-BITS, TASTEFULLY TOSSED TOGETHER TO TEASE AND TANTALIZE THEE!

We've got news a'plenty for you this month, so let's not waste a minute! Here we GOOOOOO——!

ITEM: Well, it finally happened! The love-bug bit our own romantic ROY THOMAS, and he actually took the plunge! Yep, the Rascally One was recently married to as pretty a gal as you can find outside of a Jazzy Johnny drawing! So, if he happens to name his next few dozen heroines Jean — don't be too surprised, hear? And the whole misty-eyed Bullpen wishes the cavortin' couple many many long years of health, happiness, and superhero hi-jinx! Now, back to the typewriter, R.T.!

ITEM: Suddenly, everyone's talking about ol' Green-skin again! Could it be because SMILIN' STAN himself is writing the yarns once more — or because of the pulsating power of HAPPY HERBY TRIMPY's pulse-pounding pencilling? We're not sure, but we'll tell you this — the Incredible HULK has never been greater, and judging by the fan mail, we're selling more copies than we're printing! Hoo-boy!

ITEM: Looks like romance is really in the air around the hallowed halls of Marvel! JOLLY JACK KIRBY'S handsome son Neal has just announced his engagement, and will probably have already tied the knot by the time you read these words! Heartiest congratulations to the King and Roz — and, after his winning fandom's most coveted award for World's Best Comic Book Penciller, it seems there's never a dull moment around the Kirby clan's household!

ITEM: D'ja see the colorful cover of THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #2, now on sale? Not being content to sketch the storyboards for the whole zingy issue, ol' RING-A-DING ROMITA actually did the cover painting himself! If you wanna see living proof why Johnny's one of the best, don't dare miss it! (And the story's not so bad, either!)

ITEM: The comic world is still agog about Marvel latching onto AWESOME ARNOLD DRAKE! You can see his sensational scripting in NOT BRAND ECHH, MARVEL SUPERHEROES, X-MEN, and CAPTAIN MARVEL, to name a few mildly magnificent masterworks we've been tossing at cha? Both he and ARTFUL ARCHIE GOODWIN have turned into a couple of Bullpen Bombshells, joining the ranks of STAN (THE MAN) LEE, RASCALLY ROY, and GROOVY GARY FRIEDRICH (who'll be back from the coast 'most any day now) . . . bolstering the greatest lineup of comic magazine writing talent ever assembled under one roof! And wait till you see the drama-drenched yarns of EARNEST ERNIE HART — but more about him in the months to come.

ITEM: Remember how great DR. STRANGE used to be? Well, dig it now—with GENIAL GENE COLAN and TERRIFIC TOMMY PALMER handling the art chores, it's just gotta be the most psychedelic saga of all time! And, speaking of that, wait'll you see what JAUNTY JIM STERANKO has up his sleeve for Marveldom Assembled when he finishes the latest X-MEN. He's working on another great feature which promises to earn even more raves than Jim's never-to-be-forgotten SHIELD spectaculars! And speaking of SHIELD, how about the astonishing artwork of FEARLESS FRANKIE SPRINGER? If you think he's good now — wait'll we let him buy a brand new pencil!

ITEM: No mention of Marvel's amazing art staff would be complete without including the prize-winning productions of BIG JOHN BUSCEMA! This rugged, rough-and-ready granny is setting fandom on its collective ear with the mouth-watering masterpieces he's been turning out for SILVER SURFER, THE AVENGERS, and SUB-MARINER.—And our thanks to MARVELOUS MARIE SEVERIN for pinch-hitting on the most recent episode of Fopca Namor, while Big John took a long-delayed vacation. JOHN SEVERIN'S little sis is probably the most versatile illustrator we know. She can hold her own with any action-artist in the biz and also does the best gag cartoons this side of Peanuts!

FRUSTRATION DEPT.! We wanted to tell you about the latest exploits of DAZZLING DONNIE HECK, WONDROUS WERNER ROTH, LONESOME GEORGE TUSKA, DARLIN' DICK AYERS, HEROIC HOWIE PURCELL, LARRUPIN' LARRY LIEBER, and DANDY DAN ADKINS, but we've just run out of room! And with that, we'll say NIL NISI OPTIMUS till next ish!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #82: Because you demanded it — We proudly present: The return of — The Inhumans!

SPIDER-MAN #68: A protest riot on campus! Brand new characters! And a most deadly villain!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #18: From a millenium away across the star-swept cosmos come the Guardians of the Galaxy!

AVENGERS #59: The Wasp has a new suitor, and the Avengers a new nemesis — Yellowjacket!

X-MEN #51: "The Devil Has a Daughter!" — and guess what teenage icicle is batty for her!

DAREDEVIL #47: A blinded vet! A courtroom bombshell! The secret of Karen Page!

MIGHTY THOR #159: Where was Thor before Dr. Blake found the hammer? Here's the answer at last!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #109: A brand-new version, in complete detail, of Cap's amazing origin!

IRON MAN #9: Here comes the Green Goliath . . . and if you don't know who we mean — you will!

SUB-MARINER #9: Can even mighty Namor save his sunken empire from the deadly Spell of the Serpent?

CAPTAIN MARVEL #9: Twin menaces from two different worlds menace our star-crossed crusader! A gasser!

NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD #8: From the Caves of Hercules comes a threat to SHIELD . . . and the world!

DR. STRANGE #176: They clash by night . . . our mystic master, and the sinister Sons of Satannish!

SGT. FURY #61: Happy Sam's a hostage . . . and that's the Howlers' signal to go . . . go . . . GO!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #9: The new Savage is here . . . and no war-mag buff will want to miss a minute!

MARVEL TALES #18: Spidey . . . Thor . . . and the Human Torch! Three of Marvel's mightiest!

MILLIE THE MODEL #166: Got a sister? Girl friend? Wife? This is the tale-not for HER!

MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN #2: The greatest frontier action with the Rawhide Kid, Kid Colt, and the Two-Gun Kid!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

The next time anyone puts you down for reading a comic mag, try hitting him with this little soliloquy which I've used on various radio and TV guest appearances in the past few months:

Comic books are a medium of communication — just as television and motion pictures are. All three employ words and pictures, and all must be judged on their individual merits. A story is a story, whether presented between two covers, or on a screen. If the words have dramatic impact, if the pictures are visually appealing, if the theme is emotionally relevant, then certainly it is worthy of a reader's attention. However, if the quality is lacking, then it rates little consideration. Isn't this equally true of a TV program, a Broadway show, a motion picture, or any other form of entertainment? All we at Marvel ask is that our product be judged on the basis of quality — a quality which we sincerely believe is equal to that found in any other comparable media.

Marvel Comics today are produced by the finest creative talent available. Read them first . . . and then decide.

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

And, STILL ON SALE—

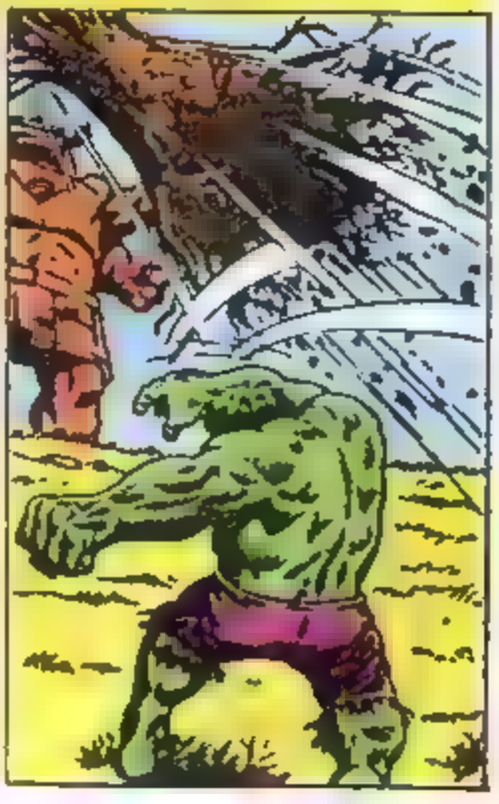
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #2: The truth about the uncanny Green Goblin — in full dazzling color!

SILVER SURFER #3: Featuring Mephisto, the most awesome super-villain of our age!

NOT BRAND ECHH #11: The nuttiest ish ever — with King Konk and a cavortin', kookie cast of cockeyed characters!

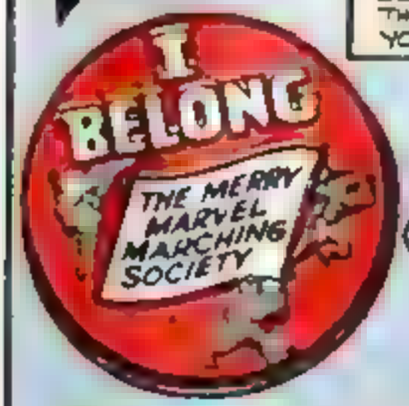
MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #18: The F.F., Doc Strange, and Iron Man . . . need we say more?

RAWHIDE KID #67: Marvel's western winner becomes . . . "The Hostage of Hungry Hills!" Don't miss it!



The Merry Marvel Marching Society

THOUGHT WE'D NEVER DO IT, EH? WELL HERE IT IS ANNOUNCING TO THE WORLD OUR FAR-OUT FAN CLUB IN THE WICKED UP MARVEL MANNER! WE TRIED TO MAKE IT EXCITING ENOUGH TO PLEASE A YANCY STREETER, MERRY ENOUGH TO FORCE JONAH JAMESON TO CRACK A SMILE, AND DIFFERENT ENOUGH TO MAKE SUB-MARINER SEND US A DRIPPING-WET DOLLAR! SO IF YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO TELL YOUR GRANDCHILDREN THAT YOU WERE ONE OF THE FIRST TO JOIN, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? YOU MAY NEVER GET A CHANCE LIKE THIS AGAIN! (UNTIL NEXT ISH!) AND, FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T TRUST ANYBODY, LOOK: HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL GET.

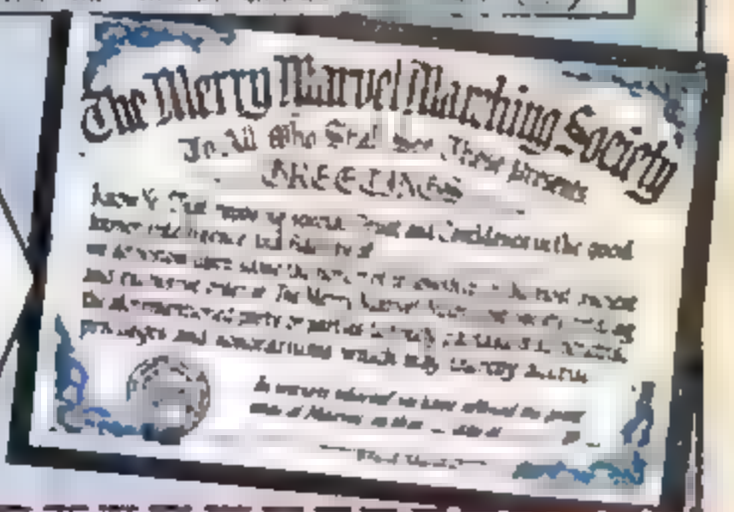


A GIANT SIZE M.M.M.S. *MEMBERSHIP BUTTON* IN DELUXE COLORS! JUST THE THING TO COVER GRAVY STAINS ON YOUR SUPER-HERO CAPE, AND DESIGNED TO LOOK GREAT WHEN WORN NEXT TO YOUR PHI BETA KAPPA KEY!

A WHOLE MESS OF ABSOLUTELY AWE-INSPIRING M.M.M.S. *STICKERS* THAT YOU CAN PASTE ONTO YOUR BOOKCOVERS AT THE BASE OF YOUR X-RAY! AND FOR THE PERSON WHO DOESN'T APPRECIATE US WE HAVE A LITTLE NOTE THAT READS "HELP STAMP OUT THE M.M.M.S."

WHEN OUR BULLPEN GANG DESIGNS A *MEMBERSHIP CARD*, WE DON'T KID AROUND! OUR "PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO MARVEL", WHICH YOU'LL FIND ON THE BACK, IS PROBABLY THE FUNNIEST THING SINCE THOR'S LAST CREW-CUT! NATURALLY, IT'S A GREAT STATUS SYMBOL, TOO! JUST WAVE IT AROUND NEXT TIME YOU'RE INVITED TO THE PENTAGON AND WATCH [illegible] (YOU MAY BE SURPRISED THAT THEY'RE NOT [illegible])

FOR THOSE OF YOU LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE FINE FRANTIC FRIENDS WE'RE GONNA BREAK OUR HEARTS AND OFFER A REAL BARGAIN! ALL SIX OF YOU CAN JOIN FOR ONLY FIVE DOLLARS! AND BESIDES ALL THE JAZZ MENTIONED ABOVE WE'LL DESIGNATE THE SIX OF YOU AS AN OFFICIAL M.M.M.S. LOCAL CHAPTER AND SEND YOU THIS PRACTICALLY PRICELESS MARVEL *CERTIFICATE*! (IT'S FIVE TIMES THE SIZE YOU SEE HERE!) YOU CAN HANG IT ON YOUR CLUBHOUSE WALL, OR PUT IT SOMEWHERE TOO HIGH TO READ AND TELL EVERYBODY IT'S YOUR DIPLOMA FROM OXFORD! AND, OL' SMILING STAN LEE WILL PERSONALLY AUTOGRAPH EACH AND EVERY CERTIFICATE - JUST TO PROVE HE CAN WRITE!



HERE'S THE GREATEST SURPRISE OF ALL!

YOU'RE GONNA RECEIVE A FRANKLY FABULOUS *33⅓ R.P.M. RECORD* WITH THE ACTUAL VOICES OF THE BULLPEN GANG CLOWNING AROUND AND WELCOMING YOU TO THE GOOD OL' M.M.M.S.! TALK ABOUT COLLECTORS' ITEMS ... YOU'LL NEVER WANT TO PART WITH IT!

MAKE OUT CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO MARVEL COMICS GROUP!

M.M.M.S.
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
625 MADISON AVE.
NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. 10022

(WRITE NICE AND NEAT! WE'LL AWARD A SPECIAL DELUXE NO-PRIZE FOR THE BEST COUPON WE GET!)

HI, GANG!
LET'S FACE IT! I'M A MARVEL MADMAN, TOO! HERE'S MY HARD-EARNED BUCK! NOW, THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS RUSH ALL THOSE NUTTY GIZMOS REAL FAST, TO.....

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ AGE ____

SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR OCCUPATION _____

'NUFF SAID!

A-14

AND WE WON'T FORGET YOU, MERRY MARCHERS! IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOW THERE'LL BE MORE SURPRISES TO COME!

SENSATIONAL SCOOPS TO STARTLE, STUN, AND SOOTHE YOU!

ITEM! It had to happen! Smilin' STAN THE MAN and Jaunty JIM STERANKO have finally teamed up to collaborate on one of Marvel's top strips — none other than Captain America! As for Jolly JACK KIRBY, the only reason the King has abandoned Cap is to give himself time enough to work with Smiley on a new title — one which promises to become the biggest blockbuster of '69 — and we'll bet you can guess what it'll be!

ITEM! Everyone's raving about the new marvelously mysterious mood that JIM MOONEY has brought to the Amazing Spider-Man! Fandom agrees that teaming MADMAN MOONEY with JOHNNY (Ring A-Ding) ROMITA'S sensational storyboard layouts is the smartest move we've made since Forbush-Man! And, by the way, did you know that madcap Mooney is one of our Leader's oldest and closest friends (although you'd never guess it by the way they're always battling!)? And they're still arguing about who was the first to grow his batty beard.

ITEM! Happy HERBY TARBOX (Hyphen with Blimpy) will be starting a new strip in a month or two — in addition to penciling the Hulk. This talented terrific newcomer has proven to be one of Marvel's most talked-about finds ever, and you'll never guess what his strip he's going to do. Unless you happen to guess that it features a cute Latverian monarch who can — aptly be called a good guy!!.

KEEPING-UP-TO-DATE DEPT.: Stop the presses! Since writing the second item above, our unpredictable Bullpen ramrod just shaved off his face fuzz! Smiley claimed he felt like a member of a rock 'n roll group when he'd go out to lunch with goateed STAN G., ARNIE DRAKE, and Jumbo JOHN VERPOORTEN! — Speaking of shrubbery, you should see the snazzy new long side-burns that Jolly SOLLY BRODSKY is sporting! If they don't stop growing, he'll have to tie them under his chin! — And Groovy GARY FRIEDRICH must have been out in the bright sun every second of his stay in California recently, 'cause he's now a real yellow-haired yahoo! — Instead of keeping an the lookout for new artists and writers, we may become the only Bullpen with a full-time BARBER in attendance!

ITEM! Has anyone ever tried counting the number of AVENGERS that have appeared in that mag since the first ish? We were arguing about it over coffee one day, and no one has yet come up with the definitive answer. So, if any of you frantic ones wanna earn yourselves a second-hand no-prize — !

ITEM! We couldn't sign off without telling you that Fabulous FLO STEINBERG, our former Gal Friday, has a great new job at Rockefeller Center, not too far from our own offices here — and wants to thank her many friends out there in Marveldom for their letters and good wishes. She still drops in occasionally to poke thru the mountain of mail that arrives each day, so watch what you say in your letters, hear?

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Wow! Talk about a dilemma! Ever since we discontinued writing answers to the letters on our fan pages, the whole roof caved in on us! We haven't had so much *angry* mail since the Human Torch was just a matchstick! One of the letters wh ch really knocked us out was this — "Dear Stan, Here's an amazing coincidence. You aren't answering your letters, and I'm not buying your comics. — Mike Nave 1711 V grove St Joplin Mo 64801" And that's just one of the milder responses! Well, there's only one thing to do — we've got to bow before the world-wide wrath of Marveldom Assembled! The only problem is, we weren't kidding when we announced that we didn't really have time to write the answers to all the letters we publish. So, suppose we compromise? Starting next ish, we'll try to answer those that need answering, and weasel our way out of the others, hoping that nobody will notice! Fair 'nuff? Okay, till we stumble again and come up with egg on our face, we'll let it go at that — and, the next time some non-believer tells you that we don't really listen to our rabid readers, let us know — we'll sit in a corner and cry a little!

Excelsior!
Smiley

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SILVER SURFER #1: Just picture this — the sensational sky-rider of the spaceways battling the mighty Thor! You'd expect it to be great, but — it's even greater!

NOT BRAND ECHH #12: There are gulfaws galore when Mighty Marble socks it to you with Frankenstein '69, the Unhumans and more side-splitting satire than you can shake a Forbush at!

FANTASTIC FOUR #83: The good Inhumans battle the bad Inhumans — with the fighting FF in the middle! The one you've been waiting for!

SPIDER-MAN #69: Is the Kingpin really stronger than Spidey? Will the web-slinger turn bad? And what about the campus protestors? It's practically an epic!

AVENGERS #60: The wondrous wedding of the Wasp and Yellowjacket is catered by . . . would'ja believe The Ringmaster & Co.?! It's jam-packed with villains!

X-MEN #52: The cataclysmic climax in the tension-packed trilogy of Lorna Dane daughter of Magneto — a mutant master work that'll blow your mind!

DAREDEVIL #48: As if our sightless swashbuckler hasn't enough trouble, here comes the sinister, scary, stronger-than ever Stilt-Man! An action treat!

THOR #160: You've gotta believe it! The return of Galactus — Ego, the Living Planet — the uncanny Recorder — and spectacle beyond compare!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #110: Written by Stan Lee! Drawn by Jim Steranko! Featuring a new partner for Cap! No matter how many mags we print, there won't be enough!

IRON MAN #10: After about a zillion cavortin' conflicts, the Mandarin at last guesses Shell-Head's secret identity! The shock-studded showdown you've been waiting for!

SUB-MARINER #10: In a life-and-death battle with not one, but two vociferous villains, Subby learns the hard way that you should—"Never Bother a Barracuda!"!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #10: Yon-Rogg finally gets his heart's desire when Mar-Vell is sentenced to death for crimes against the Kree! A space-spawned sensation!

SHIELD #9: One of the most rousingly requested of all super-villains returns as the forces of SHIELD are pitted against . . . The Hate-Monger!

DR. STRANGE #177: You won't believe your eyes when an all-new Doc Strange is forced to fight himself — with the very life of the Ancient One at stake!

SGT. FURY #62: The shell-shocked surprise you never expected to see — Nick Fury in basic-training! This one's a must for all Bullpen battle-mag buffs!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #10: The Japanese invade a strategic allied island — and the battlefield Raiders must defend it . . . "To The Last Man!"

COLLECTOR'S ITEM CLASSICS #19: The Fantastic Four, Iron Man, and everybody's favorite Master of the Mystic Arts, Doc Strange — all between the covers of a single mag! Bargain days are here again!

RAWHIDE KID #68: It's wild and wooly western action at its Bullpen-bustin' best — as the Kid faces the most dangerous desperado of all . . . the Cougar!

MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN #3: Hey! Here's a real kick! We just realized that Stan the Man himself wrote this entire ish! Wait'll you see the "master's touch" on every action-packed page!

MILLIE THE MODEL #167: They're not exactly super-hero yarns — but if the females among you dig a few zany laughs — well, why not?

And, STILL ON SALE—

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #2: The truth about the uncanny Green Goblin — in full, dazzling color!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #18: From a millenium away — across the star-swept cosmos — come the Guardians of the Galaxy!

MARVEL TALES #18: Spidey . . . Thor . . . and the Human Torch battling the deadliest super-villains of all!

BRILLIANT BITS OF BLOCK-BUSTING BOMBAST STRAIGHT FROM YOUR BLUSHIN' BULLPEN!

DIDJA KNOW? The already-classic wedding of Hank and Jan (Goliath and the Wasp) in THE AVENGERS last ish was written by RASCALLY ROY while on his own Caribbean honeymoon! Looks like fearless Foreush may be replaced by cuddly Cupid if we don't watch out!

DIDJA KNOW? Merry MARIE SEVERIN just has to be "Miss Versatile of 1968"! She did such a great job pinch-hitting as Sub-Mariner's penciller when Big JOHN BUSCEMA took a vacation that she ended up as ol' Wet-Head's newest illustrator to give the big guy more time for the AVENGERS and the sensational SILVER SURFER! Marie's also one of the finest cartoon humorists on the scene today, as evinced by her side-splitting covers and strips in NOT BRAND ECHH! And, if you could see the sizzling sketches she does of our own Bullpen Bigwigs when they're not looking — like wow! ("There, Marie honey! Isn't all that publicity lots better than the raise you keep clamoring for?" — Sinister Stan.)

DIDJA KNOW? Everyone's talking about bashful BARRY SMITH, the surprising new staffer we just imported from merrie old England! Barry's artwork is just not to be believed! This young, long-haired, tranically talented Britisher has a style which combines the pulse-pounding power of JACK (King) KIRBY with the off-beat improvisations of Jaunty JIM STERANKO! You're gotta see it to believe it! And see it you will, in X-MEN #53 and an upcoming issue of SHIELD! Let us know which other strips you'd like him to tackle, 'cause we're anxious to see how your opinions compare with ours!

DIDJA KNOW? Darlin' DICK AYERS was getting battle fatigue from an endless diet of SGT. FURY and CAPTAIN SAVAGE, so we decided to give Old Faithful a break. We switched strips between him and Dazzlin' DONNIE HECK — which means Don will be ramroddin' CAP SAVAGE for a spell while Dick sinks his teeth into CAPTAIN MARVEL . . . and we think all you frantic ones are gonna flip over the unexpected results!

DIDJA KNOW? We've sort of lost count, but in the past few months mighty Marvel has been written up in the top newspapers and magazines of Canada, France, England, Italy, Mexico, and almost every other literary-minded nation in the free world. But the most frustrating part about the whole thing is — as in the case of Sweden's Goteborgs Posten, which has been printing a fabulous series of articles about us — we don't know what half of them say — 'cause we haven't the time to translate 'em! Anyway, what's the diff — as long as they mention our names!

DIDJA KNOW? (Here's some fast ones for you —) Wondrous WERNER ROTH was one of Marvel's top Western and romance artists, B.X. (Before X-Men). We're still waiting to see him draw a curvy chick bussing a horse while fighting Magneto! . . . GEORGIE (Porgie) KLEIN, our invincible inker, is one of America's top watercolor artists, as is MORRIE (not Morris!) KURAMOTO, Jolly Solly's production pal! . . . When Lovable LINDA FITE gives Stan that mountain of mail to read each day, her laconic little comments, caustically crayoned in the margins, are usually the most hilarious part of the whole shtick! . . . Hey! Guess who's replacing Ravishin' ROBIN GREEN as the latest Bullpen Girl Friday? None other than Joyful JEAN THOMAS, the Rascally One's lovely new bride! What a way to prolong a honeymoon! Notice how habit-forming the artwork of Happy HOWARD PURCELL can be? Since he's taken over the Watcher yarn which rounds out our spellbinding SILVER SURFER mag, we wonder how we ever got along without him! Howie still teaches art in his spare time, so poor Smiley has to think twice before trying to make like an editor! And, by the way, no matter how you slice it, THE SILVER SURFER is probably the biggest smash hit in comic mag publishing since the still supreme F.F. — just as you knew it would be!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Okay, students! The subject of today's swingin' seminar will be "Where Do You Nuts Get Your Ideas?" That question is asked of Yours Truly at lectures, interviews, and bull sessions more often than any other. So, let's kick it around for Marveldom Assembled. The point is, ideas are no problem. Here in the Bullpen, we can't talk to each other for five minutes without coming up with a zillion new thoughts and angles. The big hangup is getting the time to develop the ideas . . . to polish them and refine them until we feel they'll have maximum impact — until we know they'll be an integral part of the ubiquitous Marvel universe! Everyone has ideas — you, I, the gang in the mailroom — even our competitors, bless 'em. What really counts is what you DO with them. We believe that almost any idea can be worthwhile if it's presented with integrity, taste, and imagination. For, an idea is like a guitar — it doesn't mean a thing unless you know how to use it!

Excelsior,
Smiley

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #84: At last! The return of Dr. Doom — with a cameo guest appearance by Nick Fury! And wait'll you see the sights of Latveria!

SPIDER-MAN #70: The Kingpin escapes! Spidey is finally cornered by the law! And that's only the start of the action ahead!

AVENGERS #61: Doc Strange — the Black Knight — and a pair of the most mind-staggering menaces of all time! A Marvel landmark ish!

X-MEN #53: From the Negative Zone comes . . . Blastaar! Our mighty mutants have never been mightier — or more desperate!

DAREDEVIL #49: Is this the end of DD? Will the man without fear really drop out? And what about the mad machine created to kill him?

THOR #161: It finally happens! The Thunder God faces Galactus! The Thunder God battles Galactus! And you'll never forget the awesome outcome!

HULK #113: As if the Sandman isn't dangerous enough, he attacks! Greenskin once more — but this time with a pandemonious partner!

IRON MAN #11: Unmasked by the malevolent Mandarin! If you're not a Shellhead booster already, this one'll convert ya! A smash!

SUB-MARINER #11: Who'll be the one to destroy our sub-sea monarch — Captain Barracuda, or the US Navy? It's excitement all the way!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #11: A new story line . . . a new, even more powerful Mar-Vell . . . and the outer-space entity called Zo! Prepare to be startled!

SHIELD #10: 'Tis the night before Christmas — and Nick Fury's locked in combat with the dreaded Hatemonger! A Yuletide blockbuster!

DR. STRANGE #178: It had to be! Our mystic master teams up with the Black Knight for a duel-to-the-death with . . . Tyboro!

SGT. FURY #63: "To Die with Honor!" — one of the most off-beat sagas to come out of World War Two! For all battle-mag buffs!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #11: The dramatic death of a Raider! — guest-starring the Howlers! The start of a sizzling combat epic!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #19: Hero of two worlds . . . of city skylines, and of primeval jungle! Yes, we're talking about Ka-Zar . . . and so will you!

MARVEL TALES #19: Three of Marvel's mightiest — Spidey, Thor, and the Torch — in a trio of tempest-tossed tales!

MILLIE THE MODEL #168: We can't excuse it! We can't explain it! But honest, it's one of the best-selling mags in our line!

— AND, STILL ON SALE —

SILVER SURFER #4: Possibly one of the greatest battles ever recorded — the gleaming sky-rider vs. mighty Thor! It's dynamite!

NOT BRAND ECHH #12: Outlaws galore — with Frankenstein '69, the Unhumans, and more of the most perfidious parodies of our time!

COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #19: The F.F., Iron Man, and Doc Strange — all between two covers! It's bargain time!

RAWHIDE KID #69: Wild and woolly western action at its best — as the Kid faces the desperado called . . . the Cougar!

MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN #3: Stan the Man himself wrote the entire ish — as Rawhide Two-Gun, and Kid Colt ride again!

FABULOUS FACTS AND FRIVOLOUS FABLES FOR FRANTIC FANS, FAITHFUL FRIENDS, AND FIENDISH FOES!

ITEM! Have you noticed how many Marvel characters are appearing on various rollickin' record albums these days? We got a big kick out of seeing Dr. Strange on the latest *Pink Floyd* cover — and we'll shoot a brand new No-Prize to the first 100 Believers who can mention at least two other albums on which we've been recently represented. — And how about the way Tiny Tim kept mentioning Captain America in his TV Guide interview a while ago? Could it be because ol' Tiny met STAN THE MAN at The Scene a while back and they had a ball yakkin' about Marvel madness between the acts?

ITEM! Remember our telling you about Bashful BARRY SMITH, the pandemonious panther we imported from Britain, fast ish? Well, never let it be said that your blushin' Bullpen doesn't go all-out when we move! We also latched onto a buddy of Barry's, none other than Stupify-in' STEVE PARKHOUSE, who's destined to be a Marvel staffer — and writes as smashing a bit of superhero skulduggery as you could wanna read! Steve's youthful, toothful, and a heckuva writer — so, what with him, Rascally Roy, Groovy Gary, and Archie and Annie (the typewriter twins), maybe Smiley will get that vacation someday yet!

ITEM! Speaking of bombastic Bullpeners, didja catch the name of STU SCHWARTZBERG in the latest NOT BRAND ECHH? The syncopated Mr. S. is both a comedy writer and gag cartoonist (run for the hills, Marie!), and is also the lord high panjab of our photostat machine. The machine gives off a spooky green light and, just between us, it takes a lot of courage to drop in on Stu unexpectedly. It's like visiting the Castle of Frankenstein! (Who says we never gave you a plug, Calvin Beck?)

ITEM! Here's another tidbit for our glamour department. Didja know that Adorable ARTIE SIMEK, the demon speedball-pen pusher, has a voomy married daughter? And, did ya know that she too is now lettering for nepotismatic Marvel? That's why you've been seeing the name JEAN SIMEK IZZO in the krazy-kredits panels more and more often. And so we've solved another mighty Marvel mystery!

ITEM! While we're at it, you might as well say hello to Titanic TONY MORTELLARO, the newest addition to JOLLY SOLLY's Pul The-Mags-Together Department. Tony's the trouble-maker who assembles the letters pages after they've been edited and socks 'em to ya with his trusty ol' paste-pot and scissors. He's also a wicked man with a paint brush, but more about that some other time. (By the way, you'd better be studying all these names every month! Never know when there'll be an exam!)

ITEM! The agonizin' ACADEMY OF COMIC BOOK FANS AND COLLECTORS holds an annual poll to determine the most popular mags, writers, and artists of the preceding year. If you'd like to take part in this fandom election, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to MARK HANERFELD, 42-42 Colden St., Flushing, N.Y. 11355 and he'll send you a ballot. Marvel itself has nothing to do with the poll, but we thought some of you frantic ones might get a kick out of voting!

ITEM! We've just enough room left to tell you that we've nothing left to tell you! Vale Atque Ave!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

One of the things we try to demonstrate in our yarns is that nobody is all good, or all bad. Even a shoddy supervillain can have a redeeming trait, just as any howlin' hero might have his nutty hangups. One of the greatest barriers to real peace and justice in this troubled world is the feeling that everyone on the other side of the ideological fence is a "bad guy". We don't know if you're a far-out radical or Mr. Establishment himself — if you're a black militant or a white liberal — if you're a pantin' protest marcher or a jolly John Bircher — but, whatever you are, don't get bogged down by kindergarten labels! It's time we learned how fruitless it is to think in terms of us and them — of black and white. Maybe, just maybe, the other side isn't all bad. Maybe your own point of view isn't the only one that's divinely inspired. Maybe we'll never find true understanding until we listen to the other guy, and until we realize that we can never march across the Rainbow Bridge to true Nirvana — unless we do it side-by-side!

Excelsior!

Smiley

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SILVER SURFER #5: The Stranger strikes! The Surfer walks the streets as a human! The Fantastic Four make a guest appearance! The greatest one yet!

SPIDER-MAN #71: Can you picture the wondrous web-slinger battling the super-fast Quicksilver? They'll rave about this one for years to come! But not Jolly Jonah!

AVENGERS #62: In the jungle kingdom which once was his, the Black Panther fights the monstrous menace called . . . the Man-Ape! Destined for instant classic-dom!

X-MEN #54: A mutant . . . from the land of the pharaohs! An X-Man . . . wanted dead or alive! And — the secret of Cyclops' brother! An action epic from start to finish!

DAREDEVIL #50: A deadly, rampaging robot! A mysterious villain, sworn to slay our hero! And, the biggest surprise of all — awaiting you in this landmark issue!

THOR #162: You demanded it! More, more, more about the early mystery-shrouded existence of Galactus! Also, why does Thor return to Earth?

CAPTAIN AMERICA #112: Because of the seeming death of Captain America, Lee and Kirby unite once more to produce an unforgettable special tribute issue.

HULK #114. Sandman teams up with the Mandarin! The Hulk is betrayed! And Sandman's fate may be the season's biggest shocker!

IRON MAN #12: Will the crafty Controller make mind slaves of a city . . . a nation . . . a world? You know it — unless ol' Shellhead can stop him! But how?

SUB-MARINER #12: Thrill follows thrill as mighty Namor takes on the lost legions of sunken Lemuria. A sword and sorcery saga you won't soon forget!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #12: Thwarted in his attempt to avenge the death of Medic Una Mer-Vell returns to Earth to face the monstrous menace of . . . The Man-Slayer!

SHIELD #11: Have we got a title for you! "The First Million Megaton Explosion!" Plus the fighting finish of Fury's battle with the Hate-Monger! A chiller!

DR. STRANGE #179: Out of the shrouded mists of the past! Dr. Strange fights side by side with the one and only Spider-Man! Put this one on your must list!

SGT. FURY #64: "The Peacemonger" — perhaps the greatest combat tale of all! Guest starring Simon Savage! See why even pacifists dig this war mag!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #12: His name is Thompson! Is he a man of God — or the most monumental traitor of World War II? Savage must learn the answer — or die!

RAWHIDE KID #69: And now . . . the Executioner! The most popular western hero of all — in his most suspenseful shoot-out ever! This one you gotta see!

MILLIE THE MODEL #168: Still as light and lively as ever! Lots of laughs for lads and lassies!

MAD ABOUT MILLIE #1. Millie's so popular, we hadda put out a 25¢ edition! It's a blast!

COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #20: The fabulous F.F. — the ever-incredible Iron Man — and the dazzling Dr. Strange — in some of their greatest triumphs! Talk about bargains!

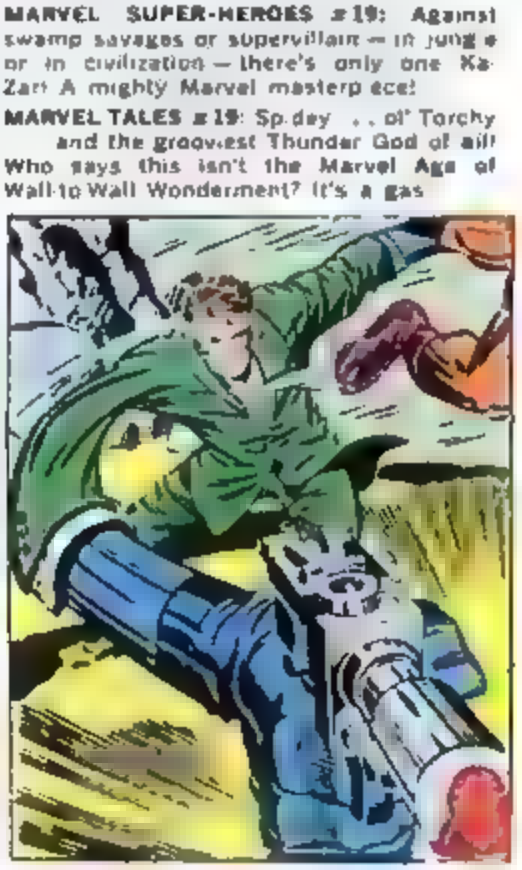
MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN #4: Rawhide Kid — Two-Gun Kid — and Kid Colt, Outlaw! Three names towering above the rest — and all yours in one pistol-packed mag!

AND, STILL ON SALE

NOT BRAND ECHH #12: Gullaws galore with Frankenstein 69, the Unhumans and more of the most perfidious parodies of our time!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #19: Against swamp savages or supervillains — in jungle or in civilization — there's only one Ka-Zar! A mighty Marvel masterpiece!

MARVEL TALES #19: Spidey . . . ol' Torchy and the grooviest Thunder God of all! Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Wall-to-Wall Wonderment? It's a gas!



IRRELEVANT ITEMS OF LASTING INCONSEQUENCE!

ITEM! As these imperishable words are written, STAN THE MAN is being intrepidly interviewed for a zingy feature article about mighty Marvel in the February issue of EYE Magazine! (And if you dare to miss it — SHEESH!) But our leader better hurry, 'cause he's due to deliver a lilting lecture at the Columbia School of Journalism in a few hours — after which he'll be winging his way south to Duke University, to "conduct a symposium or colloquium, teach a class, or hold a major lecture" as the irresistible invitation so delightfully put it! The only thing that's worrying the rest of the Bullpen is — where does Smiley get the time to write more complete full-length epics per month than any other man in history?

ITEM: In case we haven't told you, disc jockeys around the country, such as WWRL's "SICK VIC" ALLEN in sunny Florida, have been requesting actual scripts of F.F., SPIDEY, DR. STRANGE, and other Marvel masterworks to record and read verbatim over the air. Sounds like a real glitzy kick to us — so be listening for them, hear? The way things are going, they'll probably start popping up all over! (And of course we're kinda proud of the fact that these radio pros feel the quality of our dialogue is worthy of prime time radio broadcasting with virtually no editing or revisions!)

ITEM! While we're at it, here's another nice-nice! The prestigious publishing house of Geo. A. Pflaum has recently produced a fascinating new book, entitled EXPLORING THE FILM, by William Kuhns and Robert Stanley. What has that to do with Marvel, you ask? Well, there's an entire chapter devoted to pictorial angles — and it features twenty full pages of SPIDER-MAN battling the RHINO as an illustrative example! Incidentally, author BOB STANLEY visited with SMILEY a few days ago and revealed himself to be another merry Marvel madman — as well as one of the best informed and truly with-it academicians we've met since Honest Irv!

ITEM: Speaking of interesting visitors — and we've had 'em all, from famous director FEDERICO FELLINI, to prize-winning playwright WILLIAM GIBSON, to the master satirist HARVEY KURTZMAN — we have a new one to add to our riotous roster. So, say hello to ZIKA BOGDANOVIC, film, TV, and jazz critic for NIN, the weekly magazine in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. He's visiting the U.S. under the exchange program sponsored by the Ford Foundation. Y'know, it's a funny thing — so many scholars are spending so much time studying Marvel that if we had any sense, we'd head for the hills — before they seal us in pickle jars! PAX ET JUSTITIA!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

NOT BRAND ECHH #13: The Simple Surfer soars again — Dr. Deranged scores again — while feeble Forbush-Man snores again! And wait'll you dig Auntie May's diary! The biggest smash yet!

FANTASTIC FOUR #86: This is it! It looks as though DR. DOOM has finally won! And then — we promise you the year's biggest surprise ending! (No, Irving — it wasn't a dream!)

AVENGERS #53: "And in This Corner — Goliath!" But it's a fearsome, fighting-mad Goliath you've never seen before — as our awesome Avengers undergo the most unexpected change of all!

X-MEN #35: The secret of Cyclops' brother revealed at last! A battle to the finish with forces of the LIVING PHARAOH! Plus — the shocking origin of the Angel! Don't miss it!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Okay, it's time for our moment of truth! We know you were promised a new INHUMANS mag by this time — and we know you're still inhuman less! Some of you think we've just forgotten — others think we've changed our minds and haven't bothered to clue you in. Still others think we didn't want the extra work. But, the straight scoop is — we started using a new printer some months back — (You've probably already noticed the vast improvement in the clarity and brilliance of our coloring) — but the printing changeover meant we were given a new set of deadline dates — dates which require our mags to be produced even faster than before! Hence, we once again were temporarily forced to abandon our plans for new titles until we could catch our breath. However, we're starting to get on schedule again, so maybe THIS will some day be known as The Year Of The Inhumans!

Honestly, we wish there were time for us to personally explain many of the things we do — things which are occasionally misunderstood or misinterpreted by you frantic ones. For example, we sometimes get angry letters, berating us for having taken a certain artist off a certain strip. Usually you, the reader, think the move was made because we simply wanted to make a change — whereas the actual reason may be totally different. Artists are often transferred at their own request, because they've grown bored with a strip — or because they feel they can't draw it as quickly as another strip — or because another artist is ill, or on vacation, and needs a replacement — or because we feel there is another strip which is more important for that artist to do — or the other strip may be less popular, and we feel that it will increase in popularity if that artist is given a chance at it. There are some artists who insist on a certain inker — and certain inkers who prefer special pencillers. Some artist/writer teams work better than others, and — in our never-ending effort to improve the quality of the mags you spend your hard-earned shekels on — we find ourselves continually changing, experimenting, and innovating — for, though we often fall on our trusting little faces, we want you to know we're in there TRYING every minute!

Excelsior!
Smiley

DAREDEVIL #51: Yep, we've got another wild-and-wooly new arch-fiend for DD to tangle with — and when it comes to action — this is for you!

THOR #163: Few are the earth-shattering villains strong enough to battle the Thunder God — but there is such a one — the merciless master of menace — the revenge-ridden PLUTO!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #113: So, Cap is dead, eh? Well then, how do you account for what happens now!? And would you have guessed the origin of MADAME HYDRA? It's sheer spectacle!

HULK #115: It looks like Old Super-Villains' Month here at Marvel — especially when the LEADER, truly the most dangerous of all, comes back to life — to trap the Hulk, at last!

IRON MAN #13: The maddened, monstrous CONTROLLER is still at large — and even ol' Shellhead seems helpless against him! And then — but you'll wanna see for yourself, pilgrim!

SUB-MARINER #13: Stunned by the seeming death of Dorma — battered by forces that defy description — this is our awesome, agonized Atlantean at his battling best! A must!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #13: Mar-Vell is confronted with a choice . . . gain revenge on Yon-Rogg, or save Carol Danvers from the MAN-SLAYER — and wait'll you learn his decision!

SHIELD #12: The bombshell British artist/writer team of Smith and Parkhouse has turned SHIELD against Fury in an electrifying saga you'll never forget!

DR. STRANGE #180: This one starts in Times Square — and ends up in the farthest reaches of Infinity — as our magical master takes on the legions of NIGHT MARE! And if he loses — a planet dies!

SGT. FURY #65: The most senses-shattering war saga ever — and the simple shocking title says all you need to know.
Eric Koenig . . . TRAITOR!

CAPT. SAVAGE #13: The hard-hitting Raiders on special assignment in Europe! A weirdo title like "Junk-Heap Juggernauts"! What else do you need to convince ya this one's a blast!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #20: At last! The most requested new solo star of all — the one and only DR. DOOM! And talking about devilish foes — the fiendish Diablo returns! A collector's item!

MARVEL TALES #20: Who says three's a crowd? Nobody — not when that threesome is Spidey, Thor, and the blazing Human Torch! Another bargain-basement bombshell from Marvel!

MILLIE THE MODEL #170 — CHILI #1 — MAD ABOUT MILLIE #1 — what more can we say? They're fast, funny, and far-out! And, nutty as it seems, they're among Marvel's TOP-sellers!

AND, STILL ON SALE

SILVER SURFER #5: The Stranger strikes! The Surfer walks the streets as a human! The Fantastic Four make a guest appearance! And that's only part of it!

COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #20: The fabulous F.F. — the ever-powerful Iron Man — and the dazzling Dr. Strange — in some of their greatest triumphs! Talk about bargains!

MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN #4: Rawhide Kid — Two-Gun Kid — and Kid Colt, Outlaw! Three names towering above the rest — and all yours in one pistol-packed mag!

RAWHIDE KID #69: And now . . . the Executioner! The most popular western hero of all — in his most suspenseful shoot-out ever! This one you gotta see!

"AWE-INSPIRING ANNOUNCEMENTS TO YAWN WITH!"

ITEM! Remember the questionaire which appeared in our mags some months back, asking you to answer various questions about yourselves in order to give us a more accurate understanding of our rabid readers? Well, here are the three U.S. Savings Bond winners, surreptitiously selected by Honest Ire Forbush himself: (1) *Warren L. Parker*, APO NY, NY 09111; (2) *David Burson*, San Marco, Cal. 92069; (3) *Barry Morgenroth*, Nutley, N.J. 07110. Congratulations, favored ones — you're heroes all! Incidentally, as you probably suspected the survey proved that the actual readership of our mixed-up Marvel mags consists of the highest percentage of adult believers ever recorded in the history of the medium! Bullpen, take a bow!

ITEM! How about doing us a favor, friend? Next time you make like a penpal to us, it'll make our job a zillion times easier if you'll just write, somewhere on the face of the envelope, the name of the mag your letter is referring to. Those are the ones we open first, 'cause we can process them faster. 'Nuff said?

ITEM! We did it again! Yep, we've added another new fillin' luminary to our rollickin' roster of stars! In other words, say hello to Nefarious NEAL ADAMS, who has one foot tentatively planted in our Marvel doorway. We're guessing that your artistic sentiments, when you see the way he illustrated our latest X-MEN bombshell, will transform him into a Marvel madman from head to toe. It isn't only his fantastic artwork that impresses us — but the way he makes it look so easy!

ITEM! GENE (The Dean) COLAN, one of the proud pillars of penciling proficiency upon which our little empire rests, is about ready to tackle another new feature for us. But he hasn't yet decided which one he wants to do. So how about helping Genial Gene, gang? Which strip would you like to see him lend his awesome artistic talents to? Drop us a line, huh? If we keep him busy reading mail, maybe he'll forget to ask for another raise!

ITEM! In case you've been wondering what happened to Jaunty JIM STERANKO, we bid thee have no fear. Slim Jim is working on a brand-new feature which will shortly be spot-lighted in MARVEL SUPER-HEROES. And talk about a secret — he hasn't even told US what it is!

ITEM! Here's an announcement we make with mixed emotions. JACK (King) KIRBY and family are leaving New York and moving to California. In fact, by the time you read this, the King will already be settled on the shores of the blue Pacific! But, don't panic, pilgrim — he'll still be doing his bit for the Bullpen, same as ever. It's just that he'll be spending most of his extra cabbage on air-mail stamps rather than those king-sized cigars he loves to sport. Actually, it's a terrific deal for the Great One, who certainly deserves his place in the sun, but poor ol' Stan has conniptions every time he thinks of the long-distance phone bills he's gonna run up each month when he calls his partner to discuss their latest plots! Heeo boy!

ITEM! Speaking of staffers who don't quite live within walking distance of Madison Avenue, we thought you might get a kick out of knowing who lives where. So, here goes! Bashful BARRY SMITH probably gets the prize for being most far-out — and we mean literally — since he's recently returned to England, from whence he mails us his goodies each month. Then, in order of furthest distance from the Bullpen, we present: Dapper DAN ADKINS, in far-off Ohio ... Snarlin' SAM GRAINGER, North Carolina ... our pal SAL BUSCEMA, Virginia; while Jaunty J. STERANKO and Jolly J. CRAIG both have their pads in Pennsylvania ... Torrid TOM SUTTON, Massachusetts ... JIM (Madman) MOONEY, Connecticut ... and Valiant VINCE COLLETTA, Jumpin' JOHNNY SEVERIN, and Genial GENE COLAN, all nesting in New Jersey! The rest of us share the same high taxes and traffic jams in New York and Long Island — darn it! (And we never DID find out where Honest Ire holes up!)

Now, before cutting out, we've just gotta tell you about Jolly SOLLY BRODSKY. A few days ago he announced that he, stunning Selma, and the children were finally moving. So the Bullpen started to prepare the usual pandemonious party they throw for such momentous occasions. Then, when everything was set, the Jolly One calmly announced his new destination — a few flights up in the same apartment house! And he wonders why no one's spoken to him since!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

For many years we've been trying, in our own bumbling way to [illegible] that love is a far greater force, a far greater power than hate. Now we don't mean you're expected to go around like a pirouetting Pollyanna tossing posies at everyone who passes by, but we do want to make a point. Let's consider three men: Buddha, Christ, and Moses . . . men of peace whose thoughts and deeds have influenced countless millions throughout the ages . . . and whose presence is still felt in every corner of the earth. Buddha, Christ, and Moses . . . men of good will, men of tolerance, and especially men of love. Now, consider the practitioners of hate who have sullied the pages of history. Who still venerates the swords? Where's homage still paid to their memory? What banners still are raised to their cause? The power of love . . . and the power of hate. Which is most truly enduring? When you tend to despair . . . let the answer sustain you.

Excelsior!

Smiley

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SILVER SURFER #6: Introducing — the OVERLORD! A new super-menace, the like of whom neither you, nor the Surfer, has ever seen before! Filled with suspense!

FANTASTIC FOUR #37: We confidently predict that no superhero saga has ever ended this way before! See if you can guess the fate of the devastating DR. DOOM!

SPIDER-MAN #75: Beginning a whole new episode in our web-spinner's wondrous life — starting with the stupefying first appearance of — MAN-MOUNTAIN MARKO!

AVENGERS #64: This one starts with a child's nursery rhyme — and ends with a life-and-death showdown in space! It's our assemblers at their battling best! A must!

X-MEN #56: What is [illegible]. The Power? And how does it affect both Cyclops' tormented brother — and the dreaded LIVING MONOLITH? While Neal Adams' awesome artwork will leave you breathless!

DAREDEVIL #52: The [illegible] BLACK PANTHER — the end of an arch [illegible] of the most [illegible] DD's life! Don't dare miss it!

THOR #154: Thor vs. PLUTO — as only Marvel's masters of magnificent mayhem could present it! And just for good measure — you'll even meet — the mysterious ever-awesome ZEUS!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #114: Wow! Talk about a Marvel bombshell! Drawn with senses-shattering impact by Johnny Romita — featuring A.I.M. and AGENT 13 — like really in action!

IRON MAN #14: They call him the NIGHT PHANTOM — but he packs more pulsating power than a horde of shades and spectres! Can even Shellhead stand against him?

SUB-MARINER #14: The titanic team-up you thought you'd never see! Namor and the HUMAN TORCH — against the menace of the Mad Thinker! Plus a climax that'll really rock ya!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #14: The ever-invincible IRON MAN! The ever-pernicious PUPPET MASTER! And — Mar-Vell returns to the Kree Galaxy at last! A landmark ish!

SGT. FURY #66: Mission: Capture ADOLF HITLER! And that's not easy — especially when one of your own men has turned traitor! The most shocking war-saga of all!

CAPT. SAVAGE #14: You asked for it — you demanded it — and now you've got it! Savage's First Mission" — exploding with blockbuster force! Get it — that's an order!

COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #21: No matter how you slice it — the F.F., IRON MAN, and DR. STRANGE all in one giant ish has gotta be the biggest bargain around! Enjoy!

MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN #5: If you dig frontier action, this one's in your bag! THE RAWHIDE KID — TWO-GUN KID — and KID COLT, OUTLAW! A tarrupin' lineup of western greats!

RAWHIDE KID #70: We call this one "Night of the Betrayers" — and if that title doesn't tell you it's action all the way — forget it! A new high in range-ridin' thrills!

MILLIE THE MODEL #171 and CHILI #2: Buy 'em both for a quarter, laugh yourself silly, and get a penny change! Now who can beat a deal like that?

MAD ABOUT MILLIE #2: Don't ask us to explain why, but it seems that the whole whacky world just can't get enough of madcap Millie! And we're not complainin'!

AND STILL ON SALE:

NOT BRAND ECHH #13: The SIMPLE SURFER soars again — DR. DERANGED scores again — while feeble FORBUSH MAN shores again! The biggest smash yet!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #20: Our sole star is — DR. DOOM! And, if that isn't enough for you, you'll learn new secrets of the origins of SUBBY, TORCH, and CAP! 'Nuff said?

MARVEL TALES #20: Who says three's a crowd? Nobody — not when that titanic threesome is SPIDEY, TORCHY, and THOR! Classics all? You know it!

A SAGACIOUS SMATTERING OF SPACE-WASTING SMALL-TALK!

ITEM! Not only has SMILEY been lecturing like mad on various cavortin' campuses, but now a couple of our super-stars themselves are the subjects of a "free university" class at the University of Santa Clara in California! Team-taught by John Cardoza and Mike Friedrich, the course is entitled "The Development of Personality in Spider-Man and Thor", with classes beginning the end of March. (—For those of you who are panting to partake of the newest scholastic sensation.) Naturally, we're as pleased as punch — and breathlessly waiting for the next seminar to begin in "Contemporary Forbusheim."

ITEM! How about Our Pal SAL BUSCEMA who's been inimitably inking his big brother JOHN BUSCEMA's artwork these past few months? Not only is he a whiz of an inker, but we just saw some sample pages of his original illustrations — and as soon as he rents himself a pencil or two, it looks as though Big John is gonna have more competition than he bargained for! Although B. J. probably isn't worrying all that much — he's too busy teaching the rest of his family to draw!

ITEM! Speaking of the Buscema brood, didja know that the Silver Surfer is unquestionably the hit of the year? Starting with the very first ish, it's hit the top of the best-seller lists and it looks like it's there to stay. All of that must prove something — like, for instance, it's really a cinch to turn out a great comic magazine — all you need are sensational stories, fantastic artwork, superb characterization, and socko plots — not to mention the most daringly dramatic concept in years! See? It's a breeze! Anyone can do it!

ITEM! Leave us shed a tear or two for Jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA. He's one of the few light-hearted luminaries who spends more time drawing here in the Bullpen than at home . . . so, every time we need a rush cover, a fast art correction, or some help for a less experienced pencil pusher we turn to ol' Ring-A-Ding. Then, after loading him down with all those extra chores, we berate him for being late with his Spidey deadline! Now do you see why he relates to the Web-Spinner and all his hang-ups?

ITEM! It suddenly occurred to us to take a totally useless survey of how many of our Bullpen bigwigs are sporting beards these days. When we got thru counting we realized that almost a cool ten percent are fuzz-faces! Wanna know who? We thought you'd never ask! So now before they can rush to a razor here they are — Smilin' STAN LEE Rascally ROY THOMAS Jumbo JOHN VERPOORTEN, JIM (Madman) MOONEY, Awesome ARNIE DRAKE Nefarious NEAL ADAMS and ate mart STAN G. Groovy GARY FRIEDRICH and Jaunty JIM STERANKO used to sport some facial shrubbery themselves but they're now almost aggressively clean-shaven. Think they're trying to tell us something?

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #88: The F. F. return home once more — but what a home it is! Possibly the greatest mystery they've yet encountered — and wait'll you see who the super-villain is!

SPIDER-MAN #74: The secret you've been waiting for! The mind-staggering truth about the astonishing ancient tablet! And this time — even Spidey may be too late!

AVENGERS #65: A duel to the death between Goliath and the sinister, swash buckling SWORDSMAN! But first our fightin'-mad giant has to wade thru the Avengers themselves! A blast!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Over the past months, many readers have written to complain about not being given advance notice when any Marvel madman are to be interviewed on radio or TV — and hence having to miss the great event. This seems as good a time as any to explain that it's virtually impossible to clue you in in time because we ourselves receive only a few days' notice before any such appearances — and, by that time, the mags in which such notices should appear are already printed, and possibly even on sale. (You may remember our telling you in the past that our little masterworks are sent to the printer months before they appear on the newsstands.) But, be of good faith, one and all. If ever we figure out how to bridge the seemingly insurmountable time-'apse gap, we'll make sure that you have the same chance to be bored with our oratory as the rest of the Bullpen! Till then — Vale Atque Ave, y'all!

Smiley

X-MEN #57: "The SENTINELS Live!" and with that horror-struck cry, Marvel ushers in an era of new thrills, new greatness — in the saga of the most unusual fighting team of all!

DAREDEVIL #53: You've clamored for it — so here it is! The origin of our crimson crusader — retold by Stan and Gene! Plus — DD makes the most fateful decision of his entire life!

MIGHTY THOR #165: The God of Thunder has battled many foes — but none as menacingly, mysteriously, or supernaturally strange as the super-powered being known only as . . . HIM!

INCREDIBLE HULK #117: It's only fair! Ol' Green Skin has beaten the murderous LEADER in the past . . . so now, the tables are turned! But, the Leader wants more! He wants — World's End!

IRON MAN #15: What could be worse for ol' Shell-Head than facing the unconquerable UNICORN again? Why, having ol' Unie team up with still another master menace, of course — need we say more?

SUB-MARINER #15: Namor returns to the surface world — an old friend becomes a dread, unrelenting foe — and just to make things worse, up pops DRAGON MAN! It's action all the way!

SHIELD #13: A nation writhes in the merciless grasp of . . . the SUPER-PATRIOT! And Nick Fury is helpless to strike back — because he's been branded a traitor! Don't miss it!

DR. STRANGE #181. Our magical mentor is defeated in mystic battle — not by the harrowing hordes of NIGHTMARE — but by the awesome power of his own cloak and amulet! A must!

SGT FURY #67: The stogie-smokin' sarge goes after turncoat Eric Koenig — "With a Little Help from My Friends" — with Bull McGiveney thrown in for good measure! Hoo-boy!

MARVEL TALES #21: Thor — the Human Torch — and Spidey makes three! And, in case you hadn't guessed — we're throwing a sinister super-baddie or two at you, as well! Bargain days are here again!

MILLIE THE MODEL #172 and CHILI #3: We still don't know who's buying these two madcap mags — but someone must be doing it, 'cause they sell out month after month — and Stan can't afford THAT many!

AND STILL ON SALE

SILVER SURFER #6: Introducing — the OVERLORD! A new super-menace, the like of whom neither you, nor the Surfer, has ever seen before! Filled with suspense!

NOT BRAND ECHH #13: The SIMPLE SURFER soars again — DR. DERANGED scores again — while feeble FORBUSH MAN snores again! The biggest smash yet!

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MAD ABOUT MILLIE #2: Don't ask us to explain why, but it seems that the whole whacky world just can't get enough of madcap Millie! And we're not complainin'!

WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL, WAY-OUT WORLD OF MARVEL MADNESS!

We're cramped for space this ish, so we'll make it short and sweet —

ITEM! You've heard how comedians always dream of playing Hamlet? Well, Trusty TOM SUTTON, who's been one of the numerous mainstays of NOT BRAND ECHH, has always wanted to tackle pencilling a super-hero strip. And so we urge you to latch on to this month's CAPTAIN MARVEL — new artwork — new approach — new thrills — but the same ol' loveable Tom, just a'doin' his thing!

ITEM! Big news! We've some brand new mags coming up for you next month! They're in the spooky story and the romance categories — and all in the modern, meaningful Marvel manner. So save your money, bunny, and go easy on luxuries like food, clothing, and shelter. Watch these pages next ish and be ready for anything!

ITEM! Didja notice the new MARVEL SUPER-HEROES? Nothing to get excited about — all it contains is some honest to Forbush Lee-Kirby AVENGERS, featuring the HULK, THOR, IRON MAN, SUB-MARINER — plus Lee-Kirby X-MEN, and a few more surprises! If it's already sold out now you know why!

ITEM! Generous GEORGIE KLEIN finally took the plunge and got himself wedded a few weeks ago — after one of the longest engagements on record — a mere 18 years! One thing we've gotta say about ol' George — he'd be okay if he weren't so impetuous!

ITEM! Here's one of the latest Marvel-mention record albums we've heard of! It's the new MOTHER EARTH smasheroo entitled "Living with the Animals and the very first number is called "Marvel Group"! (Ta ta ta ta, ta ta!) 'Twas penned by vocalist POWELL ST. JOHN and brought to our attention by manager TRAVIS RIVERS, who personally gave us a few complimentary copies! Many thanks, gang — it's the wildest!

ITEM! No more items! (Nyahhh!)

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SILVER SURFER #7: Once again the name of FRANKENSTEIN spreads fear throuout the land — and only the SILVER SURFER can save mankind from the strangest threat of all!

FANTASTIC FOUR #69: The return of the dreaded SKRULLS! But this time, it isn't merely earth that's in dire danger — the target for an unmentionable fate is the unsuspecting THING!

SPIDER-MAN #75: From out of nowhere, a startling sudden DEATH now strikes without warning — even as a newer, more fearful SUPER FOE arises once more to menace our weary web-slinger!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

As you've already noticed, the price of our magnificquent mags has just risen from 12¢ to 15¢ . . . but far be it from us to make so monumental a move without cluing you in to the whys and wherefores. At a time when the prices of just about everything you can think of, keep rising daily, our mighty Marvels have been holding the line at 12¢ for the past seven years! However, in our never-ending efforts to bring you nothing but the very best, we have regularly increased the payments that we make to artists, writers, printers, etc. It's finally reached the point where we MUST raise our selling price to 15¢ or sacrifice the quality of our comics — and THAT we would never do. That's it, Believer — the whole hell of wax. But now, let's look at the bright side — today you can buy your majestic Marvel mags even faster . . . cause you don't have to fumble around with pennies! Just another glowing example of how we strive eternally to make your life easier.

Excelsior!
Smiley

AVENGERS #66: The one you've been waiting for! THOR and IRON MAN return to the ranks! But, can even they prevail when the vengeful VISION goes wild? Plus a cataclysmic surprise ending!

X-MEN #36: The sinister SENTINELS seem on the verge of total victory over earth's mutants — then, enter the X-Men, and the mysterious man called . . . HAVOK! It's a brain-blaster!

DAREDEVIL #54: From out of the peril-laden past — with the one power which DD cannot fight — comes the macabre MR. FEAR! Also — the seaming death of Matt Murdock! Shock follows shock!

MIGHTY THOR #166: At last the GOD OF THUNDER loses his cool and goes berserk! If it's action you're after, don't miss this staggering showdown between THOR and — HIM!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #116: Never has the RED SKULL been more powerful — or CAP more helpless! Trapped by the COSMIC CUBE — there can be no escape! Not for the faint-hearted!

INCREDIBLE HULK #118: Green-Skin battles the sensational SUB-MARINER! What more need we say — except to tell you that STAN THE MAN and HAPPY HERBIE TRIMPE bought a dozen each themselves!

IRON MAN #116: The most unexpected team-up of all — Shellhead and the uncanny UNICORN — against the rampaging RED GHOST! And wait'll you learn how ol' Ghosty plans to conquer the world!

SUB-MARINER #16: We call this one "The Sea That Time Forgot!" — but you'll never forget what happens when Namor clashes with the evil TIGER SHARK — in the weirdest setting yet!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #15: Mission — Destroy the Kree Galaxy! This is the awesome command of the almighty ZO to the man called Mar-Vell — and that's just the beginning! A must!

SGT. FURY #68: Ever wonder if our slogie-smokin' sarge had a family? Well, you're gonna MEET 'em — in this ish! But, if you think that's ALL that's going to happen — forget it!

CAPT. SAVAGE #15: Within the Temple Waits . . . Death!' And, as a matter of fact, the whole Indo-Chinese jungle is crawling with danger for our Raider buddies! Dig an offbeat war mag? This is it!

COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #22: Want more of the F.F. — Dr. Strange — and Iron Man? You got it! PLUS, a bombshell bonus — the very first appearance of Henry Pym . . . the ANT-MAN!

RAWHIDE KID #73: The most dreaded cry of all is heard on the frontier: "Indian War!" It's Rawhide at his sluggin' 'em shootin' best — against the most deadly enemy in the West!

MILLIE THE MODEL #173 and CHILI #4: Here we are again, with two of the zingiest, zaniest, zilchiest ha-ha mags in town! They're glamorous, groovy, and geeky! Try 'em!

MAD ABOUT MILLIE #3: Twice as much Millie-madness for less than twice the price! How can you miss? It's worth the cost alone to see how often Smiley's name appears!

AND STILL ON SALE —

SHIELD #13: A nation writhes in the merciless grasp of . . . the SUPER-PATRIOT! And Nick Fury is helpless to strike back — because he's been branded a traitor! Don't miss it!

DR. STRANGE #181: Our magical mentor is defeated in mystic battle — not by the harrowing hordes of NIGHTMARE — but by the awesome power of his own cloak and amulet! A must!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #21: The super-hero thrill of a lifetime! The original AVENGERS battling SUB-MARINER and the incredible HULK — also, a Lee-Kirby X-MEN epic (extraordinaire)! Plus — but that would be telling!

MARVEL TALES #21: Thor — the Human Torch — and Spidey makes three! And, in case you hadn't guessed — we're throwing a sinister super-baddie or two at you as well! Bargain days are here again!

BIG THINGS ARE COMING FROM MARVEL! WATCH FOR 'EM... 'NUFF SAID!

BATTY BULLETINS TO BEWILDER, BEWITCH, AND BEDAZZLE YOU!

ITEM! Have you been wondering what's happened to Jaunty JIM STERANKO? Well, the news is finally out. Starting this month, you'll see him represented in Marvel's newest and most off-beat suspense mags — TOWER OF SHADOWS and CHAMBER OF DARKNESS! Those of you who are dyed-in-the-wool fans of ghost stories, witchcraft, and tales of the macabre (and who isn't?) are gonna have a real field day with these groovy grotesqueries — and wait'll you see who some of the other artists are.

ITEM! We know you've been hangin' by your thumbs waiting to learn the names of our two new romance mags also! (Think of the bread you'll save buying THESE for your gal friends instead of diamonds and Rolls-Royces!) The titles are MY LOVE and OUR LOVE STORY . . . (Kinda grabs you, huh?) . . . and, if you think Ring-A-Ding ROMITA and Big JOHN BUSCEMA are unbeatable at superhero stuff, you'll blow your cerebellums when you see the way they handle these tintinnabulatin' tear-jerkers! (Know something? With our nutty luck, they'll probably become runaway best-sellers and we'll be stuck doing 'em forever! Oh well — it's better than working!)

ITEM! Here's a belated "Thank-u" to Blushin' BILL RYAN, an old fan of ours who's now a song-writer/vocalist with the wildly sensational SNOW. Their newest album cover is probably the artiest of the month. Y'know, we're suddenly reminded that we have so many good friends in the recording biz that it may not pay us to [illegible] a plug for the batty Bullpen — unless they can sing or play a guitar! The only thing buggin' us is — how come the N.Y. Philharmonic haven't sent us THEIR latest release yet? C'mon, Leonard boy — let's get with it, huh?

ITEM! This one's for Fancy NANCY MURPHY, our syncopated subscription sweetie. Nice Nan, who sends out all the subscription copies, back-issues, and anything else you send your clammy little coins to us for, wants to ask you NOT to put any money in your fan mail. If you're sending us a check, money order, or negotiable securities, be sure to put the loot in a SEPARATE ENVELOPE and address it to SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., BACK-ISSUE DEPT. or whatever it is you're sending for. If you enclose your order in a fan mail envelope, it'll take weeks and weeks longer to receive your goodies, because the letter has to be tossed back and forth till it gets to the right department. Okay? Okay!

ITEM! Have you noticed that our x-travagantly x-citing X-MEN sagas are back to 20 full pages again? When we saw the powerful, pulsatin' pencil-work of Nefarious NEAL ADAMS — not to mention the incredible inking of Terrific TOMMY PALMER — we figured that it would be a crime to deprive a wildly waiting world of those extra five pages! And didja know that the Nefarious One colors his own pages, also? All of a sudden, our merry ménage of mutants is one of the mags that're definitely not to be missed!

ITEM! Rascally ROY's been skipping around with a smile from ear to ear lately. Why? We thought you'd never ask! It seems that Big JOHN B's talented kid brother will be taking over the illustration chores of THE AVENGERS starting next month! Yep, Our Pal SAL BUSCEMA is not only one of the top inkers around, but when you see his pencil work you'll realize why the Bullpen figures we oughtta keep the two Mr. B's under lock and key like for the next hundred years!

ITEM! It looks as though sunny Ca[illegible]o has been agreeing with the King! Yep, since moving out there, Jolly JACK KIRBY has been working faster than ever and is actually getting ahead of his super-human schedule! This means he may have time to handle still another mag within the next year. So here's your chance to sound off again, faithful one! Which strip is most worthy of the Master's touch? Should we finally launch the INHUMANS? DR. DOOM? KA-ZAR? Or, do you have some other oldie or newie you'd like him to bring to life? Sock it to us, sweetie, and we'll let you know how the mail keeps coming in!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Every time one of our sagacious superheroes guest-stars in another mag we get bombarded with the same type of complaints from Marveldom Assembled! "How can Thor be fighting litterbugs with Nick Fury when he's in outer space with Winken, Blinken, and Nod in his own mag?" Or "How can Captain America be trapped by Aunt May in Spidey's mag when he's running a school for teen-age dropouts in his own swingin' stanza?" So, we have two choices. Either we stop crossover guest-starring, or we ask you to permit us a little literary license. If the doings of one of our repertory players in his own mag doesn't seem to jibe with his cameo appearance in some other mag during the same month, let's just say that one story took place a few days before, or after the other, and let it go at that, huh? Anyway, we'll try it for a while and see how it shakes you! (And, if the aforementioned has in any way confused you — welcome to the club!)

Excelsior!

Smiley

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

TOWER OF SHADOWS #1: Marv[illegible]est, most mysterious mag! Tales of weird and maddening menace, tinged with witchcraft and the dark unknown! And, talk about artwork! If a book of the macabre can be called beautiful, this is it!

FANTASTIC FOUR #90: A superhuman Skrull from outer space has landed here on earth. But, he doesn't want to conquer our planet. No, all he wants is — to enslave the Thing! It's dynamite!

SPIDER-MAN #76: You know we've been leading up to it for months — and now, it's happening! Spidey battles the loathsome Lizard, in one of the most daringly dramatic dazzlers of all!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #117: Introducing Marvel's newest and possibly most dynamic fighting hero — the Falcon! Also, see Cap battle, single-handed, against the deadly Exiles! Better buy it fast!

AVENGERS #67: To fight the invincible foe — that's the impossible mission of our awesome assemblers, aided by Iron Man and the mighty Thor! Yes, Ultron-6 lives!

X-MEN #56: "Do or Die, Baby!" The title tells it all — as our masked misfits battle to the finish with the Sentinels! With a way-out wind-up that'll rock ya!

DAREDEVIL #55: It's kill or be killed, when DD takes on the sinister Mr. Fear — high above the sprawling city! But, to make things even worse — our scarlet swashbuckler's turned coward! When it rains —!

THOR #167: The Thunder God receives the most awesome punishment of all — at the hands of the all-powerful Odin! See Don Blake on earth once more! S[illegible] of Loki! Greatness lurks within!

HULK #119: Once again, the green-skinned rampager must face the murderous might of the mad Maximus and his band of evil Inhumans! If action is your dish, this one's a feast!

IRON MAN #17: The marauder called Midas — the macabre Madame Masque — and an LMD who has vowed to destroy Tony Stark — and take his place! No wonder we call it — "The Beginning of the End!"

SUB-MARINER #17: Namor begins a quest which will take him to the land of his birth — only to encounter a menace from the very stars! And, wait'll you learn the far-out scheme of — the Stalker!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #16: A new life — and a colorful new costume — for Mar-Vell as our space-born superhero takes on the entire Kree Galaxy! Plus, at long last [illegible] sinister secret of Zo! A turning point!

SHIELD #14: A day in the life of Nick Fury — but what a day! 'Cause, now the hostile hordes of Hydra have joined Shield on the trail of our hard-hitting fugitive! Thrill follows thrill!

DR. STRANGE #182: Nightmare — Eternity — and Juggernaut makes three! Our master of black magic faces three of the most powerful entities in all the universe! A cataclysmic classic!

SGT. FURY #69: Our stogie-smokin' sarge is a captive — of the Nazi called Colonel Klaus! Then, enter the Howlers — and the home front will never be the same again! A gasser!

CAPT. SAVAGE #16: War — in a winter wonderland! But, find it where you may, it's still a living hell — 'cause the Battlefield Raiders play for keeps! Bring your own combat helmets!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #22: Talk about Marvel masterworks! This ish features two of the earliest classic epics of the X-Men and the ol' Man Without Fear himself — Daredevil! Plus pin-ups, yet!

MARVEL TALES #22: One of the most famous Spidey tales from the pulsatin' past — as the wall-crawler takes on the Green Goblin! Also, Thor and the Torch! Need we say more?

MILLIE THE MODEL #174

CHILI #5: More merry, mixed-up misadventures of America's most-mirthful models and their fascinatin' flock of flipped-out friends! A riot of loony laughs!

MY LOVE #1: Everybody loves a lover, and we're no exception! You don't haveta be hung-up on heartthrobs, but if you like to look at gorgeous gals — this is the place to find 'em, Charlie!

AND, STILL ON SALE—

SILVER SURFER #7: Once again the name of Frankenstein spreads fear thruout the land — and only the Silver Surfer can save mankind from the strangest threat of all!

COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #22: Want more of the F.F. — Dr. Strange — and Iron Man? You got it! Plus, a bombshell bonus — the very first appearance of Henry Pym . . . the Ant-Man!

RAWHIDE KID #73: The most dreaded cry of all is heard on the frontier: "Indian War!" It's Rawhide at his sluggin', six-shootin' best — against the most deadly enemy in the West!

MAD ABOUT MILLIE #3: Twice as much Millie-madness for less than twice the price! How can you miss? It's worth the cost alone to see how often Smiley's name appears! And [illegible]'s all new, new, new!

THE LATEST AND GREATEST GOODIES FROM MANIACAL MARVEL!

ITEM: Here's big news for all members of the good ol' Merry Marvel Marching Society, and for those of you who intend to join. Remember years ago, when we started the MMMS? We promised we wouldn't just swear you in and forget about you. Then what happened? We forgot about you! Now, we didn't really — but what DID happen is — our mags became so much more popular than we ever dreamed they would, and we became so much busier than we ever expected to, that we just never had the time to do all the things we had hoped to do with our swingin' little club. But, we've managed to change all that now! And the change is so important, that we're gonna give it a paragraph all to itself — just like this —

ITEM: We had the greatest stroke of luck the other day. We met a fanatical Marvelite who also happens to be a most talented California executive. He's so impressed with our mags, and our club membership roster, that he made us a fantastic offer, which we've just accepted. From now on, the MMMS will be incorporated into a fabulous parent organization named MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL! Because of this great new development, there'll be an entire new company (independent of your Bullpen, working around the clock to make your club exactly what you want it to be. So watch for the exciting announcements about Marvelmania International in our mags, and remember — you won't be watching alone. We're as anxious to see what's coming next as you are!

ITEM! Guess who's just returned to the old? None other than ol' Gil (Sugar) KANE, who's teamed up with Rascally ROY and Dapper DAN ADKINS on the greatest CAPTAIN MARVEL epic of all time! Well, since yesterday, anyway). You'll be thrilling to a brand-new Mar-Vell starting this month, and you'll have only yourself to blame if you miss it. Not only is Gil's artistry a joy to behold, but it just happens to feature CAPTAIN AMERICA, RICK JONES, and more surprises than you can count. We kid thee not!

ITEM: Speaking of awesome artistry, let's welcome Slammin' SAMMY GRAINGER to the hallowed halls of Marvel. You've already applauded his inimitable inking on various X-MEN and SHIELD strips. Well, starting now, he's lending his talents to the power-packed pencilling of Our Pal SAL BUSCEMA to carry the mighty AVENGERS to even greater pinnacles of glory! And if you wonder how we'll manage it what with Sal living in Virginia and the Slammer nestled 'way down in North Carolina, we can only say — it won't be easy! (Don't be surprised if you hear 'em shout "Avengers Assemble, y'all!" from now on!)

ITEM! Hey, did we tell you about Adorable ARTIE SIMEK? Or, perhaps you've already caught him on the nighttime Alan Burke show, where (cross our heart!) he played the harmonica and spoons! Sly ol' STAN can't wait to ask him how the heck he manages to tune his spoon!

ITEM: Suddenly, the fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR have become the talk of Marveldom! First, everyone flipped over the way we playfully parodied the theme of TV's "The Prisoner" some months back — and now, the FF's adventures on the planet of the Skulls — with overtones of every vintage gangster movie you've ever seen—are knocking fandom out of its collective tree! Take a bow, LEE and KIRBY — we don't know how you do it — especially considering the fact that your Galactus episode in the current THOR is probably the absolute high point in imaginative illustrated fantasy!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

This is it, gang! An announcement so momentous that it's taken us months to get up the nerve to make it! Starting as soon as possible, we're abandoning our policy of continued stories! Yep, that means we'll try to make every Marvel masterwork complete in each issue! Our mail has been running 50-50 for and against, and since we personally preferred the continued yarns, we kept them going. But, we finally decided that the other 50% of Marveldom should have equal rights, and it's always exciting to make a change. It's gonna make our job much tougher — we'll have to shorten our plots — perhaps tone down on our sub-plots, and tighten our pacing. But it's the least we can do for our rollickin' readers, and it'll be fun to see how it works out! A few current tales may take another issue or two to wrap up, and occasionally we may HAVE to present a two-parter — but, by and large, we've given up our continued stories till further notice! Now for the love of Odin write as soon as you can and tell us how you feel about it. If we're making another bonehead mistake, next month's column may be written by Irving Forbush!

Excelsior!

Smiley

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

CHAMBER OF DARKNESS #1: Hang on! These are the strangest, scariest, spookiest stories yet!

SILVER SURFER #8: The Surfer actually battles a ghost! Guest-starring Mephisto!

FANTASTIC FOUR #91: See the mighty Thing, enslaved on the planet of the Skrulls!

SPIDER-MAN #77: Spidey and the Human Torch in action together — plus the Lizard!

AVENGERS #68: Our awesome assemblers take on Ultron-6 — while the whole world gasps!

AVENGERS KING-SIZE SPECIAL #3: The immortal saga in which Cap joined the team — plus more, more, MORE!

THOR #168: The mighty Thunder God and gigantic Galactus — face to face at last!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #118: The Falcon fights his first battle — side by side with Cap!

X-MEN #60: The name of our macabre villain is Lykos — and boy, has he got a secret!

DAREDEVIL #58: A masterpiece of mood and mystery, as DD meets the creature called — Death's-Head!

HULK #120: The green-skinned giant takes on the U.S. army — with Maximus at his back!

HULK KING-SIZE SPECIAL #2: Hulk's origin retold! Plus, his first encounter with — the Leader!

IRON MAN #18: It's new vs. old — as Shellhead fights to the death with — himself!

SUB-MARINER #18: Namor and Triton — together again — against the sinister Stalker from space!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #17: Guest-starring Captain America! The most shocking saga of all!

SGT. FURY #70: Blazing into action with the Howlers — here come the Missouri Marauders!

CAPT. SAVAGE #16: "War is Hell . . . on Ice!" The Raiders—as you've never seen them before!

MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #23 (Formerly Collector's Item Classics): The F.F.—Doc Strange — and Iron Man! 'Nuff said!

RAWHIDE KID #72: The Kid fights alone — against the blazing six-guns of Mystery Valley!

MILLIE THE MODEL #175: CHILI #6: and **MAD ABOUT MILLIE #3:** Gals, gags, and goofy goings-on!

OUR LOVE STORY #1: There won't be a dry eye in town! If you're a lover, baby — here's where it's at!

AND STILL ON SALE—

TOWER OF SHADOWS #1: Maddening mystery by Lee, Steranko, Buscema, Craig! Like wow!

DR. STRANGE #182: The master of magic faces Nightmare — Eternity — and Juggernaut!

SHIELD #14: Nick Fury must face the combined might of Hydra and Shield! But how?

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #22: A complete Lee-Kirby X-Men, plus a full-length Daredevil!

MARVEL TALES #22: Spider-Man vs. the Green Goblin! Not to mention Thor — and the Torch!

MY LOVE #1: For everyone who loves to look at groovy chicks — and who doesn't?

WATCH FOR THE EXCITING *NEW* SURPRISES FROM *THE HOUSE OF IDEAS*, AS *MIGHTY MARVEL MOVES AHEAD!*

JIM STERANKO
Caliph of Creativity

[illegible]
Indescribable Inker

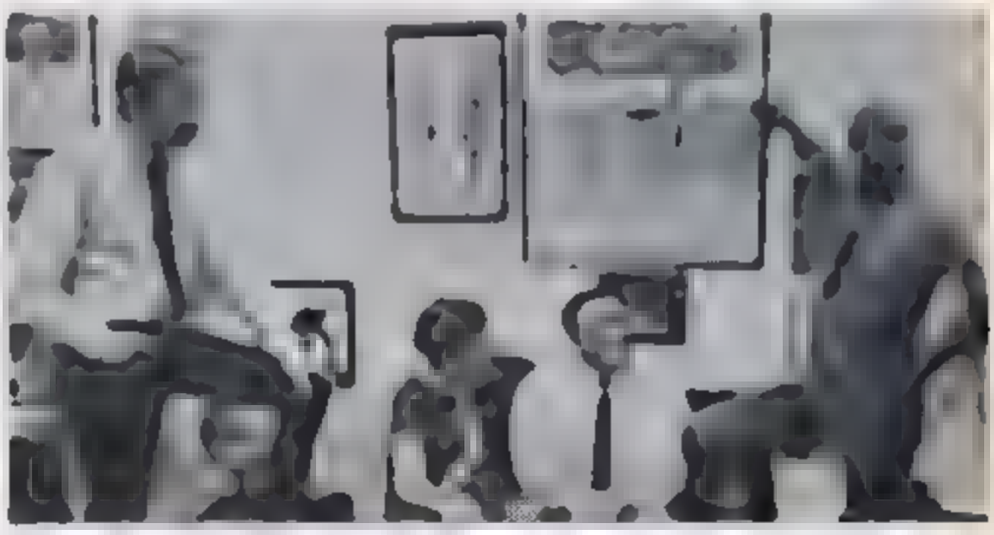
JOAN THOMAS
Adorable Assistant

[illegible] THOMAS

[illegible] THOMAS

GEORGE TUSKA

[illegible]
Crown Prince of Production



[illegible] to right: Stan, Marie, John G. and Unidentified Friend.

THAT'S ENOUGH EXCITEMENT FOR NOW. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THE WAY IT WE ACCIDENTALLY MISSED ANOTHER [illegible] THEY [illegible] IN A PIC BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T DROP BY THE OFFICE IN TIME [illegible] SAW 'EM. WE'LL TRY TO MAKE IT NEXT [illegible] NEXT TIME WE MAY EVEN CAPTURE HONEST IRV! HOLLYWOOD TALENT SCOUTS, TAKE NOTE. THE FINEST WELCOMES TO US! NONE ARE AVAILABLE FOR [illegible] UNTIL THEY ASK FOR A RAISE!!

LARRY LIEBER
The Rawhide Kid Lives

TONY MORTELLARO
Prince of Paste-ups

TOM PALMER
Inker Incredible

PAUL REINMAN
Cavortin' Colorist

JOHN ROMITA
Our own Web-Spinning Wonder

SAM ROSEN
Lord of Lettering

STU SCHWARTZBERG
Make way for Stat-Man

JOHN SEVERIN
Invincible Inker

MARIE SEVERIN
Our Princess of Pencilling

SYD SHORES
Eagle of the Inkwell

ARTIE SIMEK
Most lovable of Letterers

JOE SINNOTT
Prince of Pen and Ink

BILL EVERETT
Our Golden-Age Gremlin

GARY FRIEDRICH
Sgt. Fury's Good Right Eye

STAN G.
Millie the Model's Agent

ARCHIE GOODWIN
Titan of the Typewriter

SAM GRAINGER
Pasha of the India Inks

DON HECK
Pulse-Pounding Penciller

AL HEWETSON
He took these pics

JEAN SIMEK IZZO
Second-Generation Letterer

GIL KANE
As Rick Jones says—Fantastic

JACK "KING" KIRBY
The Master. 'Nuff sa·d

MORRIE KURAMOTO
Staff letterer and .itterer

SUZAN LANE
Our Groovy Gal Friday

STAN LEE
Marvel's Madcap Monarch

BECAUSE YOU DEMANDED IT!

HERE'S A VERITABLE **ROGUES' GALLERY** OF CANDID **PHOTOS**, FEATURING JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY IN THE WHOLE BLAMED BULLPEN! IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING HOW TO FIND YOUR FAVORITE, THEY'RE ALL IN **ALPHABETICAL ORDER!** AND SO WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, HERE ARE THE MUG SHOTS! CAUTION... THESE PHOTOS MAY SELF-DESTRUCT!

NEAL ADAMS
X-Men Artist X-Traordinary

DAN ADKINS
Thinking Man's Inker

DICK AYERS
Our War-Mag Wizard

SOL BRODSKY
Peerless Production Potentate

JOHN BUSCEMA
Surfer-artist Supreme

SAL BUSCEMA
Honorary Avenger

SHARON COHEN

GENE COLAN

JOHNNY CRAIG

ITEM: You asked for it — and even if you didn't, you've got it! For several years we've been receiving boatloads of requests to do an up-to-date photo feature on all our Bullpen yahoos! And frankly, we've been stalling on the matter until we could be certain that the photos would come out clearer than the ones 'way back in MARVEL TALES #1 (anybody here remember that far back?). Well, we think we've finally got the printing problem solved — so we had a staff member take corny candid pics of just about everybody who's a creative part of mixed-up Marvel, and you'll be seeing the riotous results when you pick up a copy of FANTASTIC FOUR SPECIAL #7 — on sale right now, natch! You can hang 'em loose — hang 'em on a wall — or hang 'em in effigy — but buy a few copies, okay? We've gotta make enough extra dough to pay for a cracked Polaroid!

ITEM: Many of today's Marvel madmen had done a stint years ago at the still-remembered EC Comics Group. Among them were JUMPIN' JOHNNY CRAIG, whose illustrations had been faithfully colored by a most talented youngster who just happened to be the kid sister of LONG JOHN SEVERIN! Now, here's the twist. The capricious Mr. Craig, who's been busily inking up a storm for us lately, is reunited once more with MERRY MARIE SEVERIN — as both of them are now boosting the bludgeoning SUB-MARINER to still-greater heights of glory!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST!

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SILVER SURFER #9: The Ghost is banished! But not the way you'd expect! A sensation!

FANTASTIC FOUR #92: The enslaved Thing must kill — if earth is to survive!

FANTASTIC FOUR KING-SIZE SPECIAL #7: By request — the origin of Dr. Doom! Plus two more of the F.F.'s greatest!

SPIDER-MAN #78: Introducing our newest, most off-beat villain — the *Prowler!*

SPIDER-MAN KING-SIZE SPECIAL #6. Spidey vs. his six most sinister foes! Can you guess who they are??

AVENGERS #69: Kang the Conqueror plays a game — with a world as the stakes! A must!

THOR #169: From the lips of Galactus — the startling secret of his origin!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #119: The Falcon and Cap defeat the Red Skull — and how!

X-MEN #61: To the death against Sauron! And you'll never guess how it ends!

DAREDEVIL #57: The secret of Death's-Head! Plus — the scene you've been waiting for!

HULK #122: He's like nothing you've ever seen before — the swamp-born Glob!

IRON MAN #19: Is this the end of Midas and Madame Masque? Or Iron Man? Or all three?

SUB-MARINER #19: The Sting-Ray! Is he Namor's ally — or a deadly new foe?

CAPTAIN MARVEL #18: At last! Our new Mar-Vell gains his vengeance on Yon-Rogg!

DR. STRANGE #183. Who are the Undying Ones? And why must Doc defeat them?

SHIELD #15: "The Assassination of Nick Fury" — by the Hydra agent known as . . . Bullseye!

SGT. FURY #71: The Howlers cry "Burn, Bridge, Burn!" — then comes the action!

TOWER OF SHADOWS #2: A witch hunt — a fiendish face in the mirror — and more, more, more!

MILLIE THE MODEL #175: CHILI #7: and **MAD ABOUT MILLIE #4:** If laughter's your bag — these are the mags!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #23: DD's first cash with the Owl! Plus the greatest X-Men epic!

MARVEL TALES #23: The Wall-Crawler — Goldilocks — and Match-Head! Need we say more?

MY LOVE #2: Don't knock it, guys! Wait'll you get a look at these chicks!

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!! ADD .50¢ FOR CANADIAN AND EUROPEAN ORDERS!! ALLOW 3 TO 4 WEEKS DELIVERY!!

With the most profound regret, we sorrowfully announce the untimely death of George Klein. George had been associated with the Bullpen for a period spanning more than two decades, as both penciller and inker. He was also a gifted painter, a valued friend, and a gentleman in the truest sense of the word. We deeply mourn his loss.

ITEM: For those of you who've been wondering why ARTFUL ARCHIE GOODWIN hasn't been doing more stories of late the answer is simple. Arch has a grueling schedule to maintain due to a couple of newspaper strips which he's been writing for years. But we're still hoping to pry some more manuscripts from him — even if we have to resort to threats — like telling him that IRVING FORBUSH just bought a new typewriter!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

CHAMBER OF DARKNESS #2: A face in a mirror — a book that foretells the future — a chiller by Edgar Allan Poe — and a [redacted]!

SILVER SURFER #10: Once more the Surfer dons a dramatic disguise to walk — and fight — among the human race!

FANTASTIC FOUR #93: The Great Games begin at last — and whether he wins or loses — the Thing must die!

SPIDER-MAN #79: The battle you've been waiting for — Spidey vs. the Prowler! And wait'll you see how it ends!

AVENGERS #70: Nighthawk — Hyperion — the Whizzer — and Dr. Spectrum! Four names that will live in infamy!

THOR #170: Back on earth once more, the Thunder God faces his most desperate battle — with the uncanny Thermal Man!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #120: This'll really shake you up! Cap becomes part of the college scene — and then the action starts!

X-MEN #62: A mutant menace — in the savage land of Ka-Zar! Plus a senses-shocking mystery villain!

DAREDEVIL #58: Enter the sinister Stunt-Master — and his way-out jet-cycle! What's more, his target is — DD!

HULK #122: The rematch that had to happen! Ol' Greenskin takes on the entire Fantastic Four — and how!

IRON MAN #20: Remember the far-out fiend called — Lucifer? Well, he's back — to Shellhead's eternal sorrow!

SUB-MARINER #20: Together again — for the first time in years! Namor and the diabolical Dr. Doom! A blast!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #19: "The Mad Master of the Murder Maze!" A kookie title — for one of the most offbeat sagas of all!

SGT. FURY #72: The hectic Howlers in Casablanca — Sam Sawyer in action — and a guest cast that'll rock ya!

CAPT. SAVAGE #17: The spotlight — and the gunsights — are trained on Jay Little Bear! Like great!

MARVEL GREATEST COMICS #24: The F.F. — Iron Man — Dr. Strange — and an all-new Watcher epic! Bargains galore!

RAWHIDE KID #73: A revenge-bent Kid stalks the West's most vicious gunmen — in "Manhunt!"

MILLIE THE MODEL #177 — CHILI #8 — MAD ABOUT MILLIE #6 — Wilder and whackier than ever! And you know what that *means*!

OUR LOVE STORY #2: Even if you don't dig gals' mags, think of the fun you'll have trying to guess which strip was drawn by whom!

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!! ADD .50¢ FOR CANADIAN AND EUROPEAN ORDERS!! ALLOW 3 TO 4 WEEKS DELIVERY!!

A SAGACIOUS SMATTERING OF SOMEWHAT SENSELESS SMALL-TALK!

ITEM! Wanna know why we're always bragging that Marvel's riotous readers are a cut above average? Well, try this for a clincher. A short time ago, Sheldon Feldner, director of Univ. of California Vera Cruz' University Theatre (and an R.F.D. and K.O.F. to boot), probably having heard that STAN THE MAN is a dyed-in-the wool Shakespeare buff, contacted the Bullpen to see if we'd help with UCVC's University Theatre Company's production of Julius Caesar. To make a long story short, Fearless Feldner recruited JACK (KING) KIRBY to do the costume designing for the show, while the rest of us contributed our moral support and not-inconsiderable kibitzing talents. Well, the show was a smash when presented on the Coast—with closed-circuit TV yet! And we're gonna frame all the great newspaper clippings that praised Jack's artistry and were good enough to mention merry Marvel in connection with so erudite an endeavor! — Next month, the Pulitzer!

ITEM! Speaking of JOLLY JACK, many long-time fans have been writing to say that THE FANTASTIC FOUR is getting better each issue — with the stories reading more like the memorable masterworks of the FF's early years. This kinda breaks us up, 'cause it's beginning to seem as though we have to take a few steps back in order to surge forward! (The philosophers among you — and what Marvelite isn't? — can mull that one over for a while).

ITEM! Stop worrying! Dry your little tears! Let thy faith be renewed! Despite what you saw in the last ish of SHIELD, we promise you that Nick Fury lives! But don't take our words for it — latch onto AVENGERS #72 (on sale early in Nov.) and see for yourself — in living color!

ITEM! In answer to the countless thousands who wanna know where we've hidden JAUNTY JIM STERANKO (well, we did get a postcard or two) — you may have trouble believing this, but it's on the level. Last time we saw him, Slim Jim turned down just about every strip we asked him to draw, saying there was only one he wanted to sink his teeth into. We tremblingly asked which it was, and he answered — (hold onto your hairdo, here) — he's itching to draw a ROMANCE yarn! Try as we may, we couldn't talk him out of it. So, we gave him a hearts and flowers assignment for one of our love books, and he left on cloud nine. That was weeks ago and we haven't seen him since. All we can think of is that the sonofagun is out doing some personal research! Well, we'll keep you posted!

ITEM! (Some fast one-liners while space permits.) PEERLESS PAUL REINMAN will be pencilling for us once again in our two new spooky mags! . . . Talk about versatility! JIM (MADMAN) MOONEY is not only a top penciller and inker, but a sculptor, painter, guitarist, and authority on antiques, as well! . . . We're still trying to decide whether MERRY MARIE SEVERIN is our funniest dramatic artist, or our most dramatic humorous cartoonist! (But either way, we love the gal!) . . . Say 'Hi' to AMIABLE ALLYN BRODSKY, our youthful new editorial staffer. He's the only guy we know who talks as fast as RASCALLY ROY Good thing SMILEY isn't a slow listener! . . . WILD BILL EVERETT is now writing scripts for us — and they're even zingier than the great SUB-MARINERS he cooked up about a zillion years ago! . . . Have you ever seen a strip that didn't look great when inked by the way-out wizardry of TERRIFIC TOMMY PALMER? (We haven't!)

STAN'S SOAPBOX

It's almost unbelievable! We thought it would shake you up when we announced our intention of dropping continued stories — but we never expected to be so completely swamped by an avalanche of irate letters, cards, and telegrams! Even those of you who once thought we were overdoing our continued yarns have threatened to bring the wrath of Marveldom Assembled upon our pointy heads if we dare to drop our never-ending sub-plots. And, so, it's "Here's where Stan tries to get off the hook" time again! We promise NOT to drop our swingin' sub-plots — we never intended to, anyway. All we want to do is see if we can end each story within a single issue. That doesn't mean we may not bring back the villain next ish — or let a running plot-thread continue. But, we want to make it less of a catastrophe if a Believer happens to miss a yarn. Also, we'd like to feel that a new reader can join us 'most anywhere without needing a road map. It's still too early to tell if we're gonna wind up with egg on our faces again, but we promise you this — if our earth-shattering new policy hasn't really grabbed you by the time you read these portentious words — don't worry! We'll switch back to our old, cataclysmically confusin', continued-story policy before you can say "No wonder they dumped ol' Stan!"

[illegible]

Smiley

. . . The block-bustin' BUSCEMA brothers (BIG JOHN and OUR PAL SAL) better look to their laurels! JAZZY JOHNNY ROMITA is teaching JOHN JR. how to draw super hero spectaculars, and we hear that the lad's a whiz already! So, as soon as we have a pair of RING-A-DINGS running wild around here, let's look out for the fireworks! . . . The votes have been counted! A united Marveldom wants STAN AND JACK to come up with an INHUMANS mag for 1970, or they'll sic Lockjaw on 'em!

[illegible]

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #94: The return of the Frightful Four! With mystic witchcraft — and a brand new character!

SPIDER-MAN #80: Remember the Chameleon? Well, how can Spidey fight a man who could be anyone? You'll never guess the ending!

SILVER SURFER #11: The Surfer and Shalla Bal face-to-face at last — while the Sky-Rider combats an army! But then — disaster!

AVENGERS #71: The battle that time forgot! The Avengers take on Cap, the Torch and Namor in wartime Paris! Don't miss 'Endgame!'

THOR #171: The Wrecker is back — with a city at his mercy! But Thor has an operation to perform! Talk about suspense — !

CAPTAIN AMERICA #121: The Man-Brute is born — stronger, faster than Cap himself! But what is the terrible secret which haunts him?

X-MEN #53: Magneto returns — with a new horde of Evil Mutants at his side! Guest-starring the one and only Ka-Zar!

DAREDEVIL #59: Willie Lincoln is marked for death — by the murderous new villain they call the Torpedo! Action all the way!

HULK #123: The Leader is back — and out for vengeance! And if he can't find the Hulk, then Bruce Banner will do! A thriller!

IRON MAN #21: Tony Stark retires! A new Iron Man is born! But then — enter the new and deadlier Crimson Dynamo!

SUB-MARINER #21: It had to happen! Atlantis invades the surface world! But — which side is Namor on?

SGT. FURY #73: The fiercest, fightin'est battleground of all — as the Howlers go into action on the Russian Front! A comic mag first!

TOWER OF SHADOWS #3: The groovyest, most gargoyle-laden goodies of all — told in Marvel's midnight manner!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #24: DD meets the Purple Man! Plus an early Lee-Kirby X-Men classic! A bargain-basement blast!

MARVEL TALES #24: Spidey — Thor — and the terrifically torrid Torch! What more can any superhero buff ask?

[illegible]

MILLIE THE MODEL #175 — CHILI #9 — MAD ABOUT MILLIE #7 — MY LOVE #3 — KID COLT #141 — MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN #7 — HOMER THE HAPPY GHOST #2 — and PETER THE LITTLE PEST #2!

[illegible]

CAPTAIN MARVEL #19: "The Mad Master of the Murder Maze!" A kookie title — for one of the most offbeat sages of all!

CHAMBER OF DARKNESS #2: A face in a mirror! A book that foretells the future! A chiller by Edgar Allan Poe! It's a must!

MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #24. The F.F. — Iron Man — Dr. Strange — and an all-new Watcher epic! Bargains galore!

CAPT. SAVAGE #17: The spotlight — and the gunsights — are trained on Jay Little Bear! Like great!

OUR LOVE STORY #2: Even if you don't dig gals' mags, think of the fun you'll have trying to guess which strip was drawn by whom!

MIXED-UP MEMENTOS MODESTLY GARNISHED WITH MACHIAVELLIAN MEMORABILIA!

ITEM! DR. STRANGE lives! You didn't think we'd let our swingin' sorcerer just vanish without a trace, didja? As a matter of fact, he joins forces with another of our ubiquitous superheroes this month in—ahh, but why tell you? Think of the fun you'll have combing the Checklist and finding him for yourself!

ITEM! One of our artists lives, also! Remember BASHFUL BARRY SMITH? Well, he finally sent us a job we've been breathlessly awaiting, all the way from Merrie England. It's drawn in an entirely different style from his spectacular superhero scribblings, and you'll find it in TOWER OF SHADOWS #3. If he didn't draw it at midnight, inside a haunted haste, with a pen dipped in a witch's brew, we'll eat our first edition Lovecraft!

ITEM! Speaking of people who live—the millennium just occurred! During the '69 Comic Art Convention, held recently at New York's famous Statler-Hilton Hotel, who actually showed up? Why, none other than JOLTIN' JOEY SINNOTT, Marvel's own gifted ghost! He came to hear the speeches, see the pomp-a-on, and rap about old times with Stan and the gang. But our Leader, loaded with script-writing chores, couldn't make the session, and so he'll probably have to wait another ten years before Joltin' Joe makes it back to the city from his upstate retreat. By the way, those of you who only think of Joe as a top inker should see his pencil work some time! If ever we find a way to add a few more hours to the day we'll see if we can persuade him to draw a feature for you—we promise it'll be worth the wait!

ITEM! Remember SCORPIO, who left us hanging by our thumbs after his sensational appearance in SHIELD? Well, the mystery will finally be unravelled in the pages of the current AVENGERS. See? Though the mills of Marvel grind slowly, if you wait long enough—!

ITEM! Guess who just called? Wouldja believe WANDERING WALLY WOOD? (We used to call him Wondrous till he took off for parts unknown.) Anyway, after a long powwow there's a chance that you'll be seeing WW's wizardry between the covers of some Marvel mags once again—where it has always belonged! (Now if only a cat named S.D. would dig up our phone number again!—Oh well, we can always dream!)

ITEM! Ever wonder what Marvel was like in the good old days? Well now you'll know—if you pick up a new hard-cover volume called All in Color for a Dime! It's published by Arlington Press, as the Christmas selection of the famous Nostalgia Book Club, and was edited by long-time comicsfans Don Thompson and Dick Lupoff. Besides a hefty, humor-packed article by Don on Captain America and the crew as they were in the days of World War II, it also contains about a dozen other fact-filled features on the comics scene of yesteryear—including one by a guy named Roy Thomas, written 'way back in 1962 when the Rascally One was a hard-working English teacher. (Any guesses now as to what Roy's gonna hand out as Christmas presents to about a zillion family members and friends? Oh well . . . it beats those autographed copies of THE AVENGERS that he passed out last year!)

ITEM! HAPPY HERBY TRIMPE is becoming a "cause celebre" around the Bullpen. There are a handful of anti-Trimpites who keep bombarding Stan's desk with letters demanding that we get a new artist to draw ol' Greenskin—claiming that ever Irving Forbush could do a better job. If they were writing to the FANTASTIC FOUR, we'd swear they're Yancy Streeters. But the odd thing is this—WE think Herb's one of the greatest additions to our stupefyin' staff since Raquel Welch (No, Norman—she isn't working here. Calm down.)—and the HULK'S sales have been climbing ever since H.T. got his clutching little claws around his paint brush. We had a point that we were trying to make, but ever since mentioning Raquel, it seems to have slipped our minds. Oh well, we've run out of room now, anyway!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

For months I've been wanting to yak with you about this subject, but it always gets shoved aside by something more urgent. Well, this time I'm gonna say it, no matter what! This time I'm out to give the great guys and gals who produce these mags a small portion of the glowing tribute they so richly deserve. Having spent almost all my life in comics, I can testify to never having known a more ethical or honorable creative group. I've seen artists sacrifice long hours to help other artists perfect their work—writers giving their time unstintingly to polish another author's script. In this, a most highly competitive field, you'd rarely hear one artist deride another's work, but instead the more talented the man, the more likely he is to provide advice, support, and encouragement to those who need it most. So here's to the titanically talented crew I work with; and to the equally gifted gang who toil for our competitors. Your work is demanding, your hours are long, your profession a lonely one. But you provide pleasure and enchantment to untold millions—and, though you may never meet them personally, they know you—respect you—they've taken you into their lives—and into their hearts. For you, and I, and all of us help them weave their most wondrous dreams.

Excelsior!

S. L.

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #95: A villain called Monocle! A plot to start World War Three! And that's only the beginning!

SPIDER-MAN #81: Aunt May stumbles onto Spidey's secret! Plus the killer called Kangaroo! It's one of Spidey's best!

SILVER SURFER #12: This one has witches, magic spells, the Surfer trapped at last—and the Abomination! Wow!

AVENGERS #72: The mystery of Scorpio solved! Captain Marvel returns! Plus—the most sinister new super-group of all!

THOR #172: Dr. Blake must sacrifice Thor to save Jane Foster, the girl he once loved! It's the Mind Slave!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #122: Here comes the Scorpion, from out of Spider-Man's past—to destroy Cap and Agent 13!

X-MEN #64: They call him—Sunfire! And you'll call him the X-Men's most deadly enemy yet! With an origin that will rock you!

DAREDEVIL #60: The block-busting, blazing end of the man they call Crime-Wave! It's DD at his greatest!

HULK #124: Bruce Banner and Betty Ross married? The Rhino says No—and so does the revenge-crazed Leader! A milestone!

IRON MAN #22: As if the Crimson Dynamo isn't deadly enough—enter the metal-clad monstrosity called . . . Titanium Man!

SUB-MARINER #22: Guest-starring the one and only Dr. Strange! But, can the two of them defeat the Undying Ones? Like weird!

SGT. FURY #74: Operation Jigsaw! One of the top secrets of World War Two—and only the Howlers can put the pieces together!

CAPT. SAVAGE #18: It's action time—as Simon Savage blasts his way out of a death camp in the war-torn Pacific!

CHAMBER OF DARKNESS #3: The night is dark—the moon is full—and mysterious Marvel's back with three of its spookiest tales yet!

MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #25: The F.F.—fighting side by side with the Sub-Mariner! Not to mention Iron Man and Doc Strange!

AND, OF COURSE

RAWHIDE KID #74—KID COLT #142—MILLIE THE MODEL #179—CHILI #10—MAD ABOUT MILLIE #8—and OUR LOVE STORY #31

and, STILL ON SALE

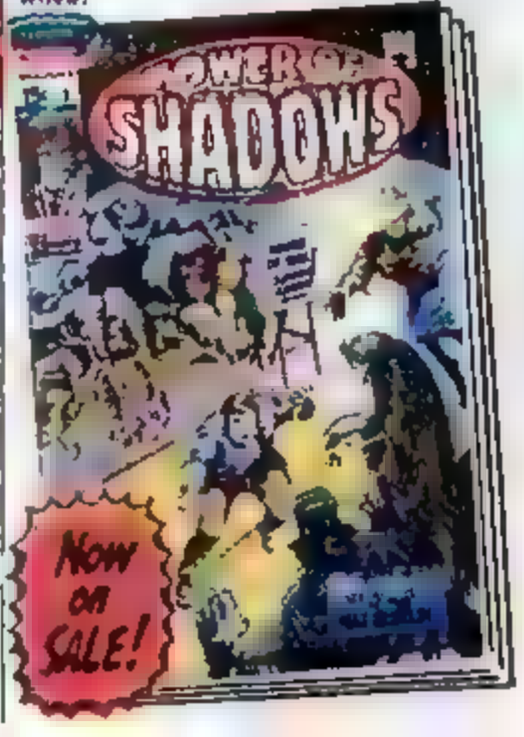
TOWER OF SHADOWS #3: The grooviest, most gargoyle-laden goodies of all—told in Marvel's midnight manner!

MARVEL SUPERHEROES #24: DD meets the Purple Man! Plus an early Lee Kirby X-Man classic! A bargain-basement blast!

MARVEL TALES #24: Spidey—Thor—and the terrifically torrid Torch! What more can any superhero buff ask?

Not to mention **MY LOVE #3—MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN #7—RINGO KID #1—WHERE MONSTERS DWELL #1—HOMER, THE HAPPY GHOST #2—PETER THE LITTLE PEST #2—and MY LOVE #31**

Whew!



INCREDIBLE ITEMS AND INCONCEIVABLE INFO OF INESTIMABLE IMPORTANCE!

ITEM! The biggest news of the month is the fact that JAZZY JOHNNY ROMITA will be penciling SPIDER MAN once more. But, we've still another surprise in store for all you Spideyphiles—Stan and Johnny have decided to go back to the Web-Swinger's original style of story picturization, and also to put more emphasis on Peter Parker's private life, as so many of you have requested. So, whatever you do, don't dare miss SPIDER-MAN #82, now on sale. It marks the beginning of still another plateau of greatness for the most realistic, most respected, most razzle-dazzle superhero the world has ever known! And we've been giving you the soft sell, 'cause you know how we hate to brag!

ITEM! Remember ol' JERRY SIEGEL, one of comicdom's top-name pioneers who basked in our Bullpen before heading for a more leisurely life on the West Coast? Well, just thought you'd like to know that his daughter recently won a scholarship to UCLA. Our congrats to a grand guy and his groovy girl-child.

ITEM! We've finally made up our minds! After all these years, we're gonna see if we can do it! It'll probably set the comics-mag world back on its collective ear, but nothing'll stop us! It's such an earth-shattering decision, that we hardly know how to tell you! It's like the end of an era! It'll shatter the traditions of Marveldom to their very foundation! But, do it we must, and do it we shall! So, hold onto your hats, 'cause here's the bit! Starting sooner or later, in some ish or other, we're gonna try using PERIODS instead of those fursh lugginer EXCLAMATION POINTS with which we've been ending every sentence since comics began! It'll take a while before you'll notice the change, because we print our mags so many months in advance, but watch for it—if you can stand the shock! Will it lessen your reading pleasure? Will it toss you off balance? Will you think you picked up the wrong mag? Will anyone give a hoot? Only time will tell! Only Marvel would care! Only the Thing has four-fingered hands!

ITEM! For years, LAUGHIN' LARRY LIEBER has been the butt of a zillion jokes around here because of his painstaking approach to everything he writes and draws. In fact, MERRY MARIE SEVERIN used to claim it took Larry as long to sharpen his pencil as it took anyone else to draw a couple of pages. Of course, Larry proudly replied that he had the sharpest pencils in the place! Anyway, we've suddenly realized that the Laughing One's RAWHIDE KID mag is one of Marvel's steadiest and most dependable selling 15¢ers— and Western story fans everywhere have been demanding that we publish it monthly. So, shed a tear for poor Larrupin' Larry. Instead of coasting along, doing one mag every two months, and getting his kicks with the pencil sharpener, he's gonna have to leave the ol' corral and ride bent for-leather to make his deadlines! Can he do it? Will he do it? We'll letcha know, soon as he dries his eyes.

ITEM! Remember a few years back when we told you about FEDERICO FELLINI visiting us at the Bullpen because he was a merry Marvel fan? Well, who says lightning doesn't strike twice? We've gotta tell you that we have another, equally famous European film director who's equally hung up on our mixed up little mags. So say hello to world-renowned ALAIN RESNAIS, the French film genius who gave us such films as HIROSHIMA, MON AMOUR . . . LA GUERRE EST FINI . . . and LAST YEAR AT MARIENBAD. Alain's a fanatical Marvel booster from 'way back, and he and SMILIN' STAN have shared many pleasant hours rappin' about movies, comic mags, and the arts in general. According to Alain, Marvel Comics are definitely the "in" thing in the arty circles of Europe today—and that kinda talk isn't exactly gonna turn us off!—Just thought you'd like to know the company you're in, Faithful One!

ITEM! Here's a late flash from MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL. (That new company we told you about a few ishes back, remember?) All members in good standing of the ol' MMMS are eligible to join M.I. for the courtesy rate of only 50¢, which entitles you to a new membership card, club catalogue, and a copy of the club magazine. Just send your four-bits, for postage and handling, to MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL, P.O. Box 718, Culver City, Calif. 90230. (Honest Irving Forbush tried to sneak his own home address in there, but luckily we caught it in time!)

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Each week brings hundreds of letters asking exactly how we produce our mags. And now, if the competition will promise not to peek, here's where we'll try to clue you in. First, the artist and the writer have a story conference, because, unlike other comic-mag publishers, Marvel believes the artist contributes as much to the story as the writer does. Then, once the plot details have been worked out, the artist goes off by his lonesome and draws the strip in pencil—drawing it any way he pleases, since the script hasn't yet been written. (So far as we know, Marvel is the only company to use this free-and-easy, highly creative method.—Free plug!) Next, the pencilled drawings are given to the writer, who creates the dialogue balloons, captions, and any other copy needed. After that, a letterer prints all the copy in the correct places (we hope) using a lettering pen dipped in jet black india ink. Finally, the pages go to the inker (embellisher) (or delineator—depending upon how fancy you are), who draws over the pencilled sketches with a brush and/or pen, also using permanent black ink. Now that the pages are drawn and lettered, we make copies of them and one of our swingin' staff of colorists paints these copies so that they can be used as color guides by the engraver when he receives the mag. After the engraver makes the engravings, they're sent to the printer and another Marvel masterwork is lovingly brought to life. Next, the millions of printed copies go to a national distributor who sends them to regional wholesalers who send them to your friendly neighborhood magazine dealer whose tender loving heart goes pitty-pat every time you buy one!

Excelsior!
Stan

Don't worry, man!
THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
is on another page!

AWESOME ANNOUNCEMENTS CALCULATED TO ROUSE YOU INTO A SEETHING SEA OF LETHARGY!

Let's find out what has been happening to our batty Bullpen gang since we saw you last—

Our own STAN LEE and his old friend CARMINE INFANTINO (our leader's counterpart at National Periodical Publications) shared a lively lunch together recently. They got all misty-eyed talking over old times and speculating about what might have been—what could have been—and what new excitement is still in store for all of comicdom. And, in this dog-eat-dog world of ours, it's kind'a nice to know that a couple of all-out competitors can still retain their longtime respect and affection for each other. And now, while we pause to dry our eyes . . . ONWARD—

How many of you know that the cover depicting Joe Namath in a King Kong pose on a recent issue of ESQUIRE MAGAZINE, as well as the illustrations for the accompanying article within the mag, were drawn by our own MARVELOUS MARIE SEVERIN? (If that doesn't get her some free ducats to the Jets' next big bash, nothing will!)

Effective this month, BIG JOHN BUSCEMA is back at the artistic helm of the mighty AVENGERS once again. He claims to have missed all the cavortin' characters, as well as the fun of juggling eight or nine superheroes in one mixed-up mag. And we're celebrating his return with a tale about—but why tell you now? Read the Checklist and see for yourself!!

And how's this for an eye-opener? JACK (KING) KIRBY has done both the script and the penciling for a dynamite thriller in the current ish of CHAMBER OF DARKNESS! For those of you who never knew that the Jolly One is as gifted a writer as he is an artist, this'll be a real serendipity. And, speaking of J.K., he and his radiant Roz are now building their own home in sunny California. He should worry how much we haveta spend on postage stamps!

Speaking of California, how about RASCALLY ROY THOMAS finally seeing his life-long idol, Elvis Presley, during a recent West Coast vacation where he also visited GROOVY GARY FRIEDRICH—who's now complete with a new moustache and a beauteous brand-new bride! Roy and his lovely wife Jean still haven't told us how they made out at the gaming tables of Las Vegas, but since the Rascally One hasn't borrowed anything more than the key to the washroom lately, we figure he did okay for himself!

And now, a final message to GENIAL GENE COLAN: We know we've been keeping you so busy you haven't had time to come to the Bullpen in weeks. But honest to Aunt Petunia pal, you don't haveta keep introducing yourself every time you phone. We still remember you, Charlie!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

From time to time we receive letters from readers who wonder why there's so much moralizing in our mags. They take great pains to point out that comics are supposed to be escapist reading, and nothing more. But somehow, I can't see it that way. It seems to me that a story without a message, however subliminal, is like a man without a soul. In fact, even the most escapist literature of all—old-time fairy tales and heroic legends—contained moral and philosophical points of view. At every college campus where I may speak, there's as much discussion of war and peace, civil rights, and the so-called youth rebellion as there is of our Marvel mags per se. None of us lives in a vacuum—none of us is untouched by the everyday events about us—events which shape our stories just as they shape our lives. Sure our tales can be called escapist—but just because something's for fun, doesn't mean we have to blanket our brains while we read it!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #97: The title's enough to tell you that it's Lee and Kirby at their greatest! "The Monster from the Lost Lagoon!" Take it from them, Irving!

SPIDER-MAN #83: Take a brand-new baddie called the Schemer! Mix with a sensational old-timer like the Kingpin! Add a desperate, battling Spidey! Instant action!

SILVER SURFER #14: This is almost too much to bear! The Surfer actually meets—and— battles—Spider-Man! As only Lee and Buscema could present it! 'Nuff said!

AVENGERS #74: A nation on the brink of crisis! The Black Panther wanted, dead or alive! All this—and the Sons of the Serpent too! One of Marvel's mightiest!

THOR #174: He's mysterious! He's murderous! He's a walking hunk of mayhem! He's the mad, merciless Crypto-Man! And the God of Thunder has to face him!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #124: Her name is Suprema, and her evil enchantment turns the forces of Shield against Cap himself! It's daring! It's dazzling! It's differe...!

HULK #126: From beyond the dark edges of reality comes—the Night-Crawler! Featuring the most unlikely guest star of all—Dr. Strange! A chiller, all the way!

DAREDEVIL #62: The Man Without Fear is replaced by the mystery-cloaked new hero called Nighthawk! But, is he really a hero—or the most dangerous villain of all?

X-MEN #66: The target is the Hulk—the scene is Las Vegas—and the stakes are the life of Professor X! The greatest mutant masterwork yet!

IRON MAN #24: The coming of the Minotaur—perhaps the most terrifying, most tragic super-villain of all! And—the return of the menacing Madame Masque!

SUB-MARINER #24: The Human Killer Whale on one side—the treacherous Tiger Shark on the other! Can either Namor or sunken Atlantis escape total destruction?

SGT. FURY #76: Revealed at last—the startling secret of Nick Fury's father! With the greatest World War I flying exploits ever—not to mention the Red Baron!

CAPT. SAVAGE #19: The rampagin' Raiders return to the sea—in a submarine-packed adventure that'll really rock ya! Title: "They Serve in Silence!"

CHAMBER OF DARKNESS #4: A trio of night-shrouded shockers, carefully concocted to knock you outta your tree! With awesome artwork by three of Marvel's masters!

MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #26: Three great features—together under one metal-stapled roof! The F.F.—ol' Sbellhead—and Doc Strange—in their greatest tales!

AND, OF COURSE—

MILLIE THE MODEL #181—CHILI #12—MAD ABOUT MILLIE #10—OUR LOVE STORY #4—KID COLT #144

AND, STILL ON SALE—

TOWER OF SHADOWS #4: A haunted house destroyed—a man killed, by a curse—and, the mortal peril of an escaped demon!! Need we say more?

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #25: the Hulk on a rampage!—the X-Men meet Sub-Mariner—and DD locks horns with the menacing Matador—Talk about bargains!

MARVEL TALES #25: Thor—the terrific Torch—and, oh yes, a guy called Spider-Man! If we put any more entertainment in one mag, they'd tax it!

Not to mention **WHERE MONSTERS DWELL #2—MY LOVE #4—RINGO KID #2—HOMER THE HAPPY GHOST #3**—and **PETER THE LITTLE PEST #3.** (Which we mentioned anyway.)

MIGHTY MARVEL'S ON THE MOVE AGAIN!

AND WHEN WE SAY WE'RE ON THE MOVE AGAIN, WE'RE NOT JUST GARGLIN' HAMFAT, PEOPLE! HERE'S WHY—

ITEM! Let's start with the results of organized fandom's biggest popularity poll. The tallies of the 1969 Alley Awards are finally in, and it's almost embarrassing the way mighty Marvel copped most of the main honors. We figured you'd wanna share some of the excitement with us, so here's a brief recap of the way the voting went: BEST COMICS MAG: The FANTASTIC FOUR and SPIDER MAN ran away with the two top honors, each getting more than twice the votes of its nearest rival. BEST WAR TITLE. SGT. FURY (and his Whatchamacallems), winning by almost two-to-one. BEST EDITOR: Our own STAN LEE (for the umpteenth time). BEST WRITER: You guessed it — STAN THE MAN again — and the biggest kick of all is the fact that RASCALLY ROY THOMAS was voted second choice in this category, showing how fandom's farflung frantic ones feel about our opulent opuses. BEST PENCIL ARTIST was JAUNTY JIM STERANKO, on the strength of the fabulous style and sophistication he has brought to so many Marvel strips — followed by last year's landslide winner, JOLLY JACK KIRBY, our own living legend, who's always the most potent threat in any comic art poll. BEST INKER: Who else but Marvel's JOLTIN' JOEY SINNOTT? We'll tell ya who else — WONDROUS WALLY WOOD grabbed second place — and you'll find W.W.'s artwork gracing our phantasmagoric pages once again. Well, we could go on and on, but you get the idea. Incidentally, if it sounds like we're bragging, you're right! But we're not bragging about us — it's YOU we're boasting about. After all, Marvel's titanic triumphs are nothing more than magnificent monuments to your own good taste!

ITEM! Now let's talk about new developments. BASHFUL BARRY SMITH'S returning to the States from merrie olde England to work on a new top-secret project for us. We can't spell it out just yet, but we've a hunch you're gonna call it mildly sensational!

ITEM! We're bringing out two new mags which will go on sale about May of this year. They're sure to remind you of some of Marvel's greatest experiments of the past, although they'll be done in the latest, greatest dynamite styles of today, by none other than KIRBY, ROMITA, KANE, and HECK! And if that's not enough to whet your appetite

ITEM! We've inaugurated a new policy of guest-star appearances in our superhero spectaculars. Perhaps you've already noticed more and more guest appearances, such as the Human Torch being featured in the current SILVER SURFER #15, or the Sub-Mariner/Iron Man slugfest in Shellhead's latest ish! And that's only the beginning of a whole magilla of ideas and surprises we've got in store for lucky you, in the months to come!

ITEM! Well, we did it again. Here's the first paragraph of a letter poor Smiley just received from SHEL FELDNER of the drama dept. at the Univ. of California, Santa Cruz "Oh Stan! What a terrible man you are! I have with great difficulty restrained an army of students from the University of California at SANTA CRUZ from marching on your office with burning pine knots and a hemp necktie. Why do they hunger for confrontation? Because you called their beloved Alma Mater the U. of Cal. at VERA CRUZ!" Luckily, Stan read on before abandoning all hope, and saw: "— I might mention that the Marvel Era continues at Santa Cruz. I am using your magazines for tryout material in the latest show I'm directing – they're really good for stimulating students." Many thanks, Shelly boy! For an endorsement like that, maybe it's worth making a bonehead blunder or two!

ITEM! If you haven't joined Marvelmania International yet, you're missing out on the jazziest color catalogue of superhero goodies you've ever drooled over! The original posters, shown in living color are enough to make Jonah Jameson smile — and wait'll you latch onto the swingin' art kit with self-portraits of your favorite Marvel mad men! All that and more, more, more, for only 25¢ to cover postage and kickbacks! So kiss two-bits goodbye and rush it to MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL, P.O. Box 718, Culver City, Cal. 90230. 'Nuff said!

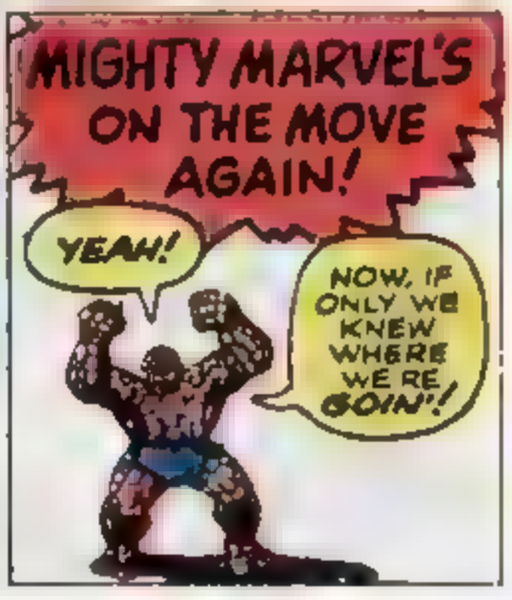
STAN'S SOAPBOX

Okay, students — it's lesson time again. So many of you have been asking how long it takes to produce one of our cataclysmic comics that I decided to take the easy way out and answer all of you at once — as a public service — and mainly 'cause I can't think of anything else to write about. As you know, we turn out an average of twenty merry masterworks a month, which boils down to about one complete book every working day. Naturally, that doesn't mean we write, draw, letter, and color a complete mag in a single day — even Irving Forbush couldn't do it. But, the work is done on a glorified, nervous-breakdown-inducing, production-line basis. We start a new title every day and take about a month till it reaches completion. If any one book is late, or if any writer or artist or anyone connected with the mag's production misses his deadline, it sets the whole kaboodle back like a set of falling dominos. Now then, if you completely understand any of this, drop us a line and explain it to me. And, whilst wallowing in our usual sea of confusion, I'll start preparing next month's Soapbox, which'll deal with the time it takes for the writer to do his writing, the letterer to do his lettering, and the artist to do his artistry. Then, when we're all done, this avalanche of erudite information is guaranteed to do you as much good as it does us. In other words

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

Don't worry, man!
THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
is on another page!



MINI-BULLETINS TO SKIM, SCAN, AND SAVOR!

ITEM! CAPTAIN MARVEL lives again – with the same great team of THOMAS, KANE, and ADKINS that knocked you for a loop a few months ago! Who says mighty Marvel doesn't listen to the fans?

ITEM! Now it can be told! The name of the mag which BARRY SMITH is drawing is CONAN THE BARBARIAN! Watch for it! Who says mighty Marvel isn't on the move again?

ITEM! This you've gotta see – our own STAN LEE and JIM STERANKO have teamed up to produce the zingiest romance strip of all time in the current OUR LOVE STORY #5. Who says mighty Marvel doesn't do the unexpected?

ITEM! Those two new titles we told you about last ish will be AMAZING ADVENTURES and ASTONISHING TALES. Each will feature TWO complete epics, and if you guess the INHUMANS, KAZAR, the BLACK WIDOW, and DR. DOOM, you won't be far wrong! They'll be on sale early in May! Who says mighty Marvel doesn't keep its promises?

ITEM! Didja hear about STAN THE MAN rapping for hours with JOE McDONALD, BARRY MELTON, and their manager ED DENSON? Or maybe you know them better as COUNTRY JOE AND THE FISH! Anyway, don't be too surprised to hear of a Marvel rock album on sale one of these days! (If Irving Forbush could only sing!) Who says mighty Marvel's not taking over the whole funky world?

Don't worry, man!
THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
is on another page!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Okay, team – this time we'll pull a switcheroo. Instead of ME doing the yakkin', I'm gonna listen to YOU! Here's your chance to gather up your gripes and sock 'em to us! Don't pull your punches – just think of it as therapy for both of us! We'll announce the results of this swingin' little survey as soon as all the votes are in. Don't cop out, hear? If nothing else, think how this'll impress our mailman!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THESE ARE MARVEL'S BEST:

PENCILLERS: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

INKERS: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

HEY, MAN, THESE ARE MY FAVORITE TYPES OF PLOTS:

THESE ARE THE KIND OF YARNS THAT TURN ME OFF:

WOW! THESE ARE THE TYPE OF MAGS YOU SHOULD DO MORE OF:

IF I WERE YOU, STAN (UGH!), THESE ARE THE CHANGES I'D MAKE AT MARVEL:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Okay, pencil pusher, time's up! Clip this out and send it to STAN LEE'S LITTLE SURVEY, 635 Madison Ave., N.Y.C., 10022. Thanks a heap, hero – and consider yourself no-prized!

CANDID COMMENTS CALCULATED TO AMUSE AND CONFUSE YOU!

ITEM! Looks like it's old home week around the Bullpen once again. Two more little lambs who had gone astray have just returned to the fold—so let's hear a hearty "Welcome Back" for CHEERFUL CHIC STONE and VALIANT VINCE COLETTA! Chic, whom many of you long time Marvelites will remember as having inked some of our earliest FANTASTIC FOUR, AVENGERS and other great titles will now be adding his own distinctive luster to BIG JOHN BUSCEMA'S awesome artwork on the sensational SILVER SURFER. As for Valiant Vince, this talented Marvel great will once again give new magnificence and majesty to JOLLY JACK KIRBY'S out of this world rendition of the mighty THOR! (And before we forget, wait'll you see WONDROUS WALLY WOOD's incomparable inking on GENIAL GENE COLAN'S action-packed presentation of CAPTAIN AMERICA! It's just too much!) Add all that to the unfailing excellence of JOLTIN' JOE SINNOTT, TERRIFIC TOM PALMER, FEARLESS FRANK GIACOIA, and our other inking greats, and you can see why Marvel's on the move again!

ITEM! Remember the little survey we asked you to answer last ish? Well, as soon as all the votes are in (probably in another couple of months), we'll announce the results in our usual courageous manner so that you can cheer the heroes and hiss the villains!

ITEM! Do us a favor, huh? We get so many hundreds of letters daily that our two gorgeous Gal Fridays, LOVABLE LESLIE DIXON and MISCHIEVOUS MIMI GOLD asked us to make this suggestion. Whenever you write to us, instead of just writing Marvel Comics Group on the envelope, how about adding the name of the mag, or the department that your letter is for? It'll speed things up real much, and the girls both thank you.

ITEM! We just had a visit from JACK (KING) KIRBY, who winged his way eastward from sunny California to rap it up with Stan about the new INHUMANS series the Jolly One will be producing in the forthcoming AMAZING ADVENTURES. Sly ol' Stan not only conned Jack into doing two yarns at once, but even cajoled the King into doing the script as well as the pencilling for this great new series. So, if any of you should be injudicious enough to miss the first episode, on sale next month, don't say we didn't warn you!

ITEM! It's true! It's true! MERRY MARIE SEVERIN will be doing a new superhero feature for us once again! For all you frantic ones who demanded to know where JOHNNY SEVERIN'S captivatin' kid sister has been hiding, she's been right here all the time, helping us out with cover sketches and ideas, coloring, layouts, and many of the so-necessary although unheralded chores that keep the Bullpen bull penning! However, now that we're back on schedule again, you'll no longer be deprived of our favorite femme's fantastically fabulous far out artwork!

ITEM! And how about DASHIN' DONNIE HECK? After saving our skins by drawing romance strips, mystery yarns, and a fill-in X-MEN or two, plus anything else we threw at him while we were re juggling our back breaking schedules, Ol' Faithful is finally back penciling IRON MAN once again, not to mention furnishing us with the surprise of the season—a brand new version of DOC STRANGE! (Now, if only we can figure out where to put it!)

Don't worry, man!
THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
is on another page!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Wow, I just remembered—a couple of months ago I promised to clue you in about the length of time it takes to write, letter, and draw our ebullient little epics. It isn't that we forgot (perish forbid!), but we sorta got side-tracked when our little survey pre-empted most of our other goodies last month. Anyway, better late than never (a little phrase I just made up), so here goes—and pay attention, pal—there may be an exam! It takes about half a day to create the plot for an average 20-pager. That includes the hour or two spent in discussing the various story angles by the writer and penciller. Then, the penciller begins to draw the strip, and most pencillers average about two pages a day of peerless drawing. Of course there are speed demons like Kirby, Colan, and Buscema who can whip out three pages daily—while others (who shall be mercifully unnamed) blaze along doing a single page each day. You might also bear in mind that many artists (and writers) work different hours. Some burn the midnight oil late until the wee hours of dawn, while others put in a typical business man's 8 hour day. Finally, the writer gets the penciled pages and usually spends about two full working days putting the dialogue and captions into a 20-pager. (Averaging 10 pages daily.) Then, the letterers can do about a page an hour, while the inkers—who are the last to tackle the artwork—take about as long as the average penciller per page. Now then, if there are any questions from the gallery—forget it! I'm exhausted from just thinking about all that work!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

TWICE THE EXCITEMENT IN ONLY HALF THE SPACE!

ITEM! Here's the latest low-down on mighty Marvel's two most eagerly awaited new mags — both on sale right now! ASTONISHING TALES features a new Dr. Doom series, drawn by wondrous Wally Wood — in addition to a sensational new Lee-Kirby rendition of everybody's favorite jungle swinger — the super-heroic Ka-Zar, and his saber-toothed tiger! Then, while you're still reeling from that, we belt you with AMAZING ADVENTURES, containing the start of a fantastic Inhumans series, written and drawn by King Kirby — co-featured with a new, updated sensational Black Widow thriller, in the far-out style of Big John Buscema! So, what else is new? We're glad you asked —

ITEM! Don't miss our new giant-sized KA-ZAR special ish which is selling out even as you read these awesome words! As a surprise extra, it features a new, heroic Hercules saga, guest-starring the mighty Avengers! 'Nuff said? Uh uh! The eagerly-awaited SGT. FURY and IRON MAN King-Sizers are also now on sale — and they're greater than ever! So go, gang, go!

ITEM! Wow! Our own Stan Lee was contacted by one of the world's most famous film-makers to write the screen play for a new big-budget movie based on one of Stan's original stories! Wouldn't it be something if our leader ends up with a Hollywood Oscar to keep his countless comic mag Alley Awards company?

ITEM! There's a surprise awaiting you in this month's THOR! It's illustrated by ol' Johnny Buscema, who switched off with Jolly Jack this month just for kicks. Meanwhile, the King is making comic book history by drawing SILVER SURFER #18, on sale 'most any minute!

ITEM! (Just 'cause we have to end with something — and it might as well be an agonizin' admonishment!) We just want to caution you not to send cash when you write for subscriptions. Please send only checks or money orders. (Bottle tops don't count!)

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Good news, gang! You'll get a break from all my rapping this month. There's just enough space remaining for me to tell you that there's not enough space remaining for me to tell you anything.

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

Don't worry, man! THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST is on another page!

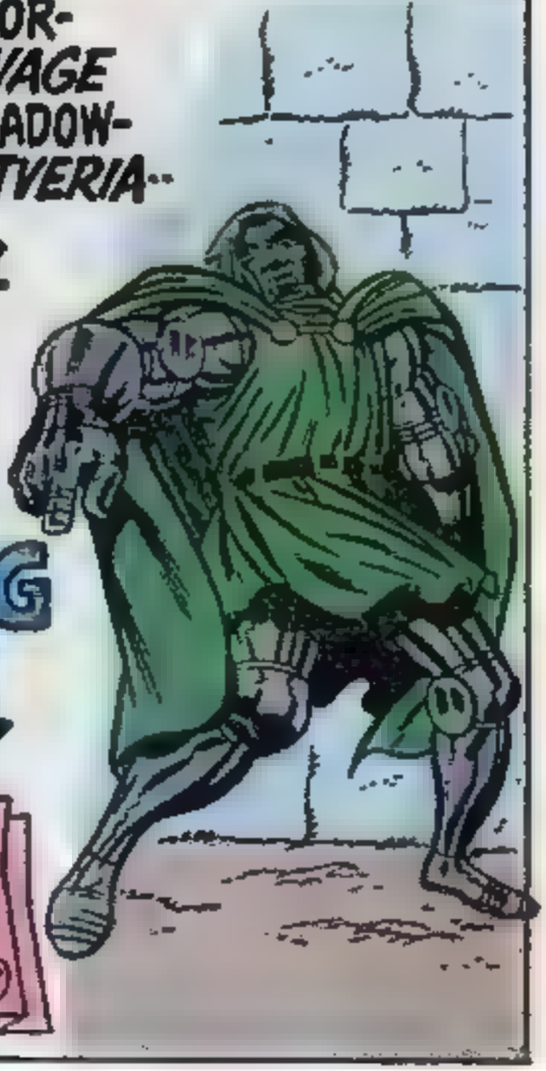
KA-ZAR AND DR. DOOM! TERRIFIC TOGETHER... IN THE PAGES OF ONE MAGNIFICENT MAGAZINE!

FROM THE TIMELESS, TERROR-STALKED JUNGLES OF THE *SAVAGE LAND*.. TO THE SINISTER, SHADOW-HAUNTED ALLEYWAYS OF *LATVERIA*..

MIGHTY MARVEL IS ON THE MOVE AGAIN, WITH...

ASTONISHING TALES NO. 1 NOW ON SALE!

WITH ART and STORY BY... LEE + KIRBY.. THOMAS + WOOD! (WHO SAYS THIS ISN'T THE MARVEL AGE OF RENAISSANCE?)



LESSON ONE: HOW TO FILL A PAGE WHEN YOU'VE NOTHING TO SAY!

ITEM! If you aren't already subscribing to the only authorized publication of our official, bonafide, non-fattening fan club, MARVEL MANIA INTERNATIONAL—Then, you're probably the only one! Everyone else is flipping over MARVELMANIA MONTHLY MAGAZINE, an in depth periodical which covers everything going on at Marvel, past, present, and future! See the subscription ad elsewhere in this mag, then go, great one, go!

ITEM! We're so wrapped-up in changing our schedules, juggling our artist-writer team-ups, and planning a whole plethora of pandemonious new projects for you, that we're afraid to make any definite announcements right now, because by the time these imperishable words are printed, everything we've itemized may have been changed beyond recognition. So, to play it safe till next ish, we'll present a few items that are as constant and unalterable as our love for Aunt Petunia; beginning with one of the autobiographies which Marveldom Assembled has most requested—(Anyway, Vivacious Virginia Romita will get a kick out of reading it!)

ITEM! "My Life And You Can Have It", by JAZZY JOHNNY ROMITA. . . . In 1930, a boy was born to a quiet, unassuming Brooklyn couple . . . Marie & Vic Romita. At an early age, the boy began sketching, and soon had drawn his way into New York's High School of Industrial Art (now the School of Art and Design). Although he had always loved comic books, he set his sights at magazine illustration such as done by Robert Fawcett, Noel Sickles, and Austin Briggs. Johnny Romita soon found his love of comics getting in the way, so he plunged into it temporarily. That was nineteen years ago.

Fearless in youth, he had gone to the fabled Atlas Comics building (known to contemporaries as "Marvel") and shown his stuff. The editor, one Stan Lee, gave him a mystery story to pencil and the rest is legend. For seven years after, both the sun and moon found him bent low over his drawing board. From 1950 on, including two years in the Army doing recruiting posters, he rendered every feasible type of story: mystery, science fiction, war, romance, jungles, westerns, and he even had a crack at a mighty red white- and blue hero known as Captain America ('52-3). In 1957, however, he drifted over to a certain Devilish Competitor where he drew romance comics for eight years. The fans of his kingdom wondered if he hadn't committed some horrendous and heinous crime . . . such as daubing ink with one of Stan's cigars. Perhaps we'll never know.

In 1965 he received a reprieve and returned to the wonderful world of Marvel madness by inking an Avengers. Then, it was Daredevil to which he lent his loving touch . . . then fill-ins on Hulk and Captain America. Soon, the ultimate—our friendly neighborhood SPIDER MAN.

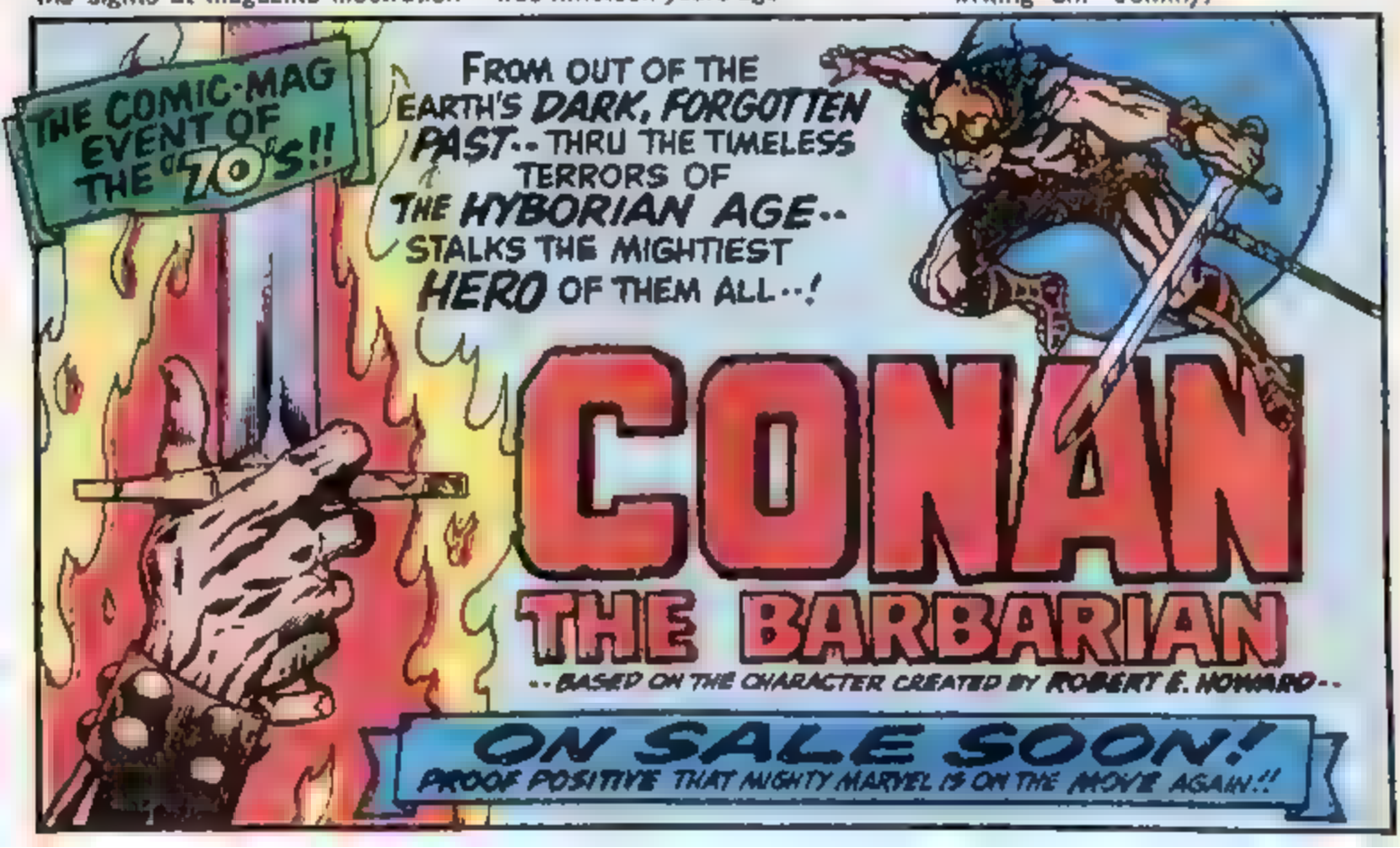
His wife, Virginia, and his two boys—Vic and John—now are a constant source of inspiration in those long hours at the drawing board when deadlines press heavily upon him. (And he kids thee not, 'cause no one could know these facts better than the guy who's writing 'em—Johnny)!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Who says lightning never strikes twice? Remember a few years back when Steve Ditko suddenly left the hallowed halls of Marvel to seek his fortunes elsewhere? Well, at the time of this writing (early in March), Jack Kirby has unexpectedly announced his resignation from our surprised but stalwart little staff. They say things usually happen in threes, so we figure that a few years hence we'll be receiving a peremptory notice of abdication from Irving Forbush himself! However, until that dreaded day arrives, your barnstormin' Bullpen is passionately preparing some of the wildest and wackiest surprises yet to electrify your eyeballs and stagger your senses! That's where we're at—understaffed, undermanned, and undertfed—but as bushy-tailed and bewildered as ever! So, watch for the fireworks friend, as we turn ourselves on, knock ourselves out, and do ourselves in to prove once again that while we may not be the biggest, we're still the boldest and the best!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee


THE COMIC-MAG EVENT OF THE '70's!!
FROM OUT OF THE EARTH'S DARK, FORGOTTEN PAST--THRU THE TIMELESS TERRORS OF THE HYBORIAN AGE--STALKS THE MIGHTIEST HERO OF THEM ALL--!
CONAN
THE BARBARIAN
--BASED ON THE CHARACTER CREATED BY ROBERT E. HOWARD--
ON SALE SOON!
PROOF POSITIVE THAT MIGHTY MARVEL IS ON THE MOVE AGAIN!!

A PANDEMONIOUS PLETHORA OF PERPLEXING PRONOUNCEMENTS, PASSIONATELY PREPARED AND PHILOSOPHICALLY PROFERRED!

ITEM! Let's face it—this is probably mighty Marvel's proudest and most crucial hour! Even here, at the world-famous House of Ideas, we've never made so many sudden, cataclysmic changes; or taken so many unexpected, unprecedented gambles! Never before has any leading magazine company dared to switch the artist line-ups of some of the world's best selling mags! But, despite our countless other faults, we've never been accused of being timid . . . and the announcements that follow will show you why—

ITEM! JOHNNY ROMITA, the man whose artistic genius has helped guide SPIDER-MAN into the position of the world's most popular single superhero, will now be penciling the world's greatest comic magazine—the fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR, aided and abetted by the dynamic new inking sensation, JUMBO JOHNNY VERPOORTEN! For sheer, pulsating power—for spine-tingling scenes that stagger the imagination—combined with biting satire and raw, rugged realism from the pen of STAN LEE, you dare not miss the new, greater-than-ever version of the world's most honored comic magazine—the titanic team that ushered in the Marvel Age of Comics—the one, the only, FANTASTIC FOUR!

ITEM! Though he's now the ramrod of the F.F. art team, JAZZY JOHNNY has not forsaken the area of his greatest triumph—THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Instead, he will continue as artist-emeritus, guiding the progress of the titanically talented GIL KANE, who was the Jazzy One's personal choice to succeed him as Spidey's permanent penciller. Even if you're one of SUGAR-LIPS KANE'S countless fans, you're still in for a startling surprise when you see how magnificently he's captured the spirit and the excitement which only STAN THE MAN'S web-spinning wonder can muster! But hold onto your hat, heroic one—there's more a'comin'—

STAN'S SOAPBOX

For those of you who keep track of such minutiae, it's been about ten years since the Marvel Age of Comics first exploded upon the literary scene. They've been good years, exciting years, years of challenge and achievement. But now, as we face our second decade as the world's most popular purveyors of illustrated fiction, the challenges are greater than ever—though, hopefully, our achievements will be greater, too. We're now faced with the task of proving that our past success wasn't merely a flash-in-the-pan; of proving that we can once again rekindle the excitement, the wonder, and the dazzling dynamism that have made Marvel a household word wherever magazines are read. We hope we can do it. We think we can do it. We're gonna knock ourselves out trying to do it. But, win lose or draw we'll be giving it the best we've got—and we hope you'll be with us every inch of the way. Sure, we're proud of the past, but like we always say—the best is just ahead!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

ITEM! BIG JOHN BUSCEMA, who has become one of comicdom's all-time greats in the few short years he's made his mark at Marvel, is so much into the mighty AVENGERS that he and ROY THOMAS have lifted it high into the ranks of the world's best-selling superhero teams. In order to allow our bold and bearded master-penciller enough time to really concentrate on the awesome assemblers, and to do justice to the Rascally One's magnificently thrill-packed story lines, we've given him a leave-of-absence from THE SILVER SURFER—allowing the unique, hard-hitting style of HERB TRIMPE to give the spaceborn skyrider a new direction, and a brand-new majesty—not to mention the fact that STAN THE MAN promises a totally different image for the Surfer, as he reaches a fateful turning point in his own fabled career!

ITEM! For those of you who've demanded the return of NEFARIOUS NEAL ADAMS, we bow to your wishes, as always—in what is probably the most unexpected, yet logical change-over of all. Realizing the majestic quality of Neal's inimitable artwork—the dramatic impact of his powerful penciling—and the larger-than-life emotions his drawings can generate—we've brought about the most long-awaited team-up of all, as NEAL ADAMS will bring to life the saga of the mighty THOR—as only Stan can write it! STAN LEE, writer— NEAL ADAMS, artist—ASGARD, the setting—GLORY AND GRANDEUR, the scope—and literature and legend may never be the same again!

ITEMS! We have to be brief now, 'cause space is running out. CONAN THE BARBARIAN debuts this month. Miss it at your own risk! Also, watch for the SPIDER-MAN KING-SIZE, the FANTASTIC FOUR KING-SIZE, the X-MEN KING-SIZE, our latest giant publication FRIGHT, and the SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION, featuring—aww, why not try to guess?—And all the above stuff is just for starters! Wait'll next month, mister!

AN ITEM A DAY KEEPS US GROOVIN' AWAY!

ITEM! Wow! It's hard to believe that a whole year has gone by since mighty Marvel walked off with most of fandom's highly-coveted Alley Awards. Anyway, we just received the results of the famous Comic Art Fans and Collectors' latest balloting, and guess who captured most of the awards again this year? Want a hint? It wasn't Gamal Nasser! Even though we hate to sound as though we're doing our own back-patting ('cause you know our modesty has become a household word!), we feel we owe it to all our blushin' boosters to clue you in . . . so here goes. Best Adventure Title: FANTASTIC FOUR. Best Writer: RASCALLY ROY THOMAS. (Someone give Stan a handkerchief!) Best Pencil Artist: NEAL ADAMS. Best Inking Artist: TOM PALMER. Best Cover of the Year: CAPTAIN AMERICA #13. Best Full Length Feature Story: SILVER SURFER #5. Best Short Feature Story: TOWER OF SHADOWS #1, "At The Stroke of Midnight!" Best Adventure Hero: SPIDER-MAN. Best Villain: DR. DOOM. Best Supporting Character: RICK JONES —Well, we could go on and on, but you're liable to think we're braggin'! By the way, heartiest congrats to an old friend, DICK GIORDANO, for beating our leader out of the Best Editor slot by one fateful vote. Stan would have congratulated you personally, but he's too busy jumping out of the window! (Special to Roy: We're proud of you, Mr. T., for copping the Best Writer Award. Even ol' Smiley is out there cheering thru his tears!)

ITEM! As if GENIAL GENE COLAN isn't satisfied with knockin' 'em dead with his awesome artistry on CAPTAIN AMERICA and DAREDEVIL, plus a rollickin' romance tale or two, our perennial favorite will soon start penciling THE BLACK WIDOW (which appears in AMAZING ADVENTURES as if you didn't know) on a regular basis. We figured that was that until he phoned the other day to ask what else he could do for us in his spare time!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

This month a dream has come true, and I'm bustin' to share the excitement with you. Time and again I've announced that one of our prime objectives here at Marvel is to upgrade the image of comic-books in the mind of the public. You and I, and all of us who are into the comics thing, know it for the creative and relevant art it truly is—but, to much of the unitiated public, alas, it's still kid stuff. Therefore, in order to help propagate the faith, we've finally taken a giant step forward. Having contacted virtually every artist, writer, and comic-mag creator in the field, I couldn't wait to tell you the big news. An industry-wide society, to be called the ACADEMY OF COMIC-BOOK ARTS has just been formed, which, hopefully, will do for comics what the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has done for films, and what the Academy of TV Arts and Sciences has done for television. "ACBA" will be a forum, a fraternity, and a free-wheeling foundation upon which to build a greater-than-ever comic-book medium. We'll have exhibits in world famous galleries; a lecture bureau to provide speakers to interested groups here and overseas; and an annual awards ceremony in which we, the pros, will recognize and reward the finest artistic and literary contributions from within our field. There are of course many, many more prestigious projects in the wind, and you better believe I'll keep you posted as we go zooming along. Meanwhile, here's a toast to you the reader, without whose support and enthusiasm the whole thing would be meaningless—and to all the titanically talented guys and gals in comicdom assembled, as we travel together towards a new, brightly beckoning future in the way-out world of comics!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

ITEM! This month's special editions include the ever-popular THOR 25¢ KING SIZE SPECIAL, AVENGERS 25¢ KING-SIZE SPECIAL, and HULK 25¢ KING SIZE SPECIAL, plus an additional two titles which haven't been done in double size — CAPTAIN AMERICA 25¢ KING-SIZE SPECIAL and SUB MARINER 25¢ SPECIAL. If any of you have any change left over in your pockets this month, it won't be our fault!

ITEM! How about GROOVY GARY FRIEDRICH? In between his scripting chores on SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING WHATCHAMACALL'EMS and a dazzlin' DAREDEVIL or two, the fiery Mr. F. has just co-authored a book with fellow Marvelite LEN BROWN. The valorous volume has the somewhat staggering title: THE POCKET ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ROCK AND ROLL 1950-1963. So, if you were a big name in rhythm-and-blues before 1950, or after '63—forget it! Anyway, who ever said our mighty Marvelmaniacs aren't triple-threat men?

ITEM! If you haven't seen the latest THOR with JOE SINNOTT's incredible inking over NEFARIOUS NEAL's wondrous pencil-pushing, you're missing the artistic treat of the month. And all of comicdom is goin' wild over GIL KANE's terrific team up with JOHNNY ROMITA on the newest and possibly greatest SPIDER-MAN sagas of all. But, perhaps the biggest accolade has to be tossed to JAZZY JOHNNY for his outtasight rendition of the FANTASTIC FOUR, coupled with the ever-lovin' embellishment of Marvel's newest inking great—JUMBO JOHNNY VERPOORTEN. All six foot six of him!

ITEM! We can't resist closing with this streamlined little saying we just stumbled over: "Life is what happens to you—while you're making other plans!

BIG THINGS ARE COMING FROM MARVEL! WATCH FOR 'EM--- 'NUFF SAID!

A PRIDE OF PRONOUNCEMENTS FOR A FRENZY OF FANS!

Okay, Gang—it's name-dropping time again! So let 'em fall where they may!

ITEM! Here are some additional famous names to add to the ever growing list of Marvel madmen: KEN KOCH, the famous modern American poet on the faculty of Columbia University. (How many of you read the glowing write-up about his endeavors in LIFE last May?) It's always fun to spend time with Ken, talking about Marveldom, motorcycles, and making an end to the war overseas. And how about PETER BASCH, widely acclaimed as one of the world's top photographers? This gifted and glamorous lensman has recently tuned in to the Marvel mystique and taken time out from photographing the world's most famous celebrities to spend a hectic and hilarious afternoon snapping the gang at the Bullpen for a far out photo feature. So don't be surprised if you see us grinning out at you from the pages of a certain prestigious picture mag—or, more likely, your local Post Office wall!

ITEM! How's this for name-dropping? In Princeton University's Firestone Library you can now savor the adventures of HULK, IRON MAN, THOR, SUB-MARINER, etc. etc., according to a recent ish of the Princeton Alumni Weekly. Marvel's little masterpieces even bear their own card catalogue number and the admonition: "Not to be taken from this room"! Now if only we could make the Congressional Record!

ITEM! Our belated thanks to SGT ROGER D. LANDSBERGER, 284th MP Co. in Viet Nam, for sending us that great newspaper pic of "CAPTAIN AMERICA", one of the mighty V-100 armored vehicles of the 66th Military Police Company in Phu Toi. Other names used on these fantastic fighting machines are THOR, IRON MAN, DAREDEVIL, etc. Now, if only that could make everybody stop fighting and start reading . . !

ITEM! Two of our latest FFF awards (Fearless Front-Facer, of course—Marveldom's highest accolade for meritorious service to the cause, above and beyond the call of duty), have been won by DR. ARTHUR BERGER of San Francisco State College for the monumental textbook he is in the process of completing, on the subject of the Marvel phenomenon. Our second fantabulously favored fortunate is famous actor ORSON BEAN for his well publicized usage of our superhero comic magazines as an aid to learning at his celebrated school in Greenwich Village. On behalf of the Mighty Marvel Awards Committee International, we say thee both: Excelsior!

ITEM! BIG JOHN BUSCEMA takes over as regular artist on THOR this month—the mag he was born to illustrate. And many thanx to NEFARIOUS NEAL ADAMS for filling in till now. Don't worry, we won't let N.A. get away—Hey, by the way, did you hear that Neal's been elected Vice-Prez of the newly formed ACADEMY OF COMIC-BOOK ARTS? Our own STAN LEE was tapped as ACBA's first President, and we'll fill you in on the Acad's progress at frequent intervals—'specially when awards-time rolls around!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

I've often mentioned the hundreds of letters we receive each year asking for our opinion of this nutty, hairy, scary, mixed-up world we live in. Time and again I've attempted to give your Bullpen's viewpoint as best I could, seriously, flippantly, recklessly, cautiously, and perhaps ineffectually. In fact, I tossed in the line: "Life is what happens to you while you're making other plans" on this page last month, figuring it was about as pithy and evasive an epigram as any. Recently, in the magazine section of the N.Y. Times, I spotted another gem in which a Harvard student was quoted as saying: "Life is a Fellini movie." It suddenly occurred to me that it's about time to turn the tables and learn how YOU, our ever respondent readers, feel about the real life world outside. So hurry—condense your most profound expression of "what it's all about" into one crisp and canny sentence, and shoot it along to STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX, 635 Madison Avenue, NY 10022. As usual, there'll be no prizes 'cause everyone can't win and we hate any Marvelite ever to be a loser (almost as much as we hate to spend money). However, some of you will have the indescribable thrill of seeing your one-liners printed in future issues, while the others can seek solace in the fact that their submissions were undoubtedly too witty and wise for us to understand!

Onward!

Stan

'TELLIN' IT LIKE IT WAS, IS, AND OUGHTTA BE!'

ITEM! Just thought you'd like to know — the outspoken young fan who gave us the idea for the Ranks of Marveldom a few years ago (R.F.O.'s, F.F.F.'s, etc.) is now a full-fledged editor, turning out possibly the greatest fan mag of all for our own MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL! His name's MARK EVANIER, and he and his assistant editor, STURDY STEVEY SHERMAN, came to visit us the other day from sunny California where Marvelmania has its headquarters. They're a couple of young, zingy with-it guys, and after yakkin' it up with 'em for a while it's easy to see why MARVELMANIA has become the toast of fandom! They were in town to attend the famous ComiCon '70, and speaking of conventions—

ITEM! We just have to tell you that our first open meeting of the ACADEMY OF COMIC-BOOK ARTS, held during the summer, was really somethin' else! One of the cleverest entertainers of our time, none other than WILL JORDAN, the great monologuist and impressionist (you've seen him break up the Ed Sullivan show a zillion times), provided some of the most hilarious routines we've ever howled at. Our most heartfelt thanks to Will, and to all the panelists and guests who made it such a memorable and meaningful affair.

ITEM! We hate to say it, but by the time you read these rueful words JOLLY SOLLY BROOSKY will have left the whacky world of Marveldom Unmitigated to strike out on his own as an independent publisher. We just wanna take a minute now to bid ol' Sol a fond farewell, and to wish this loyal and talented guy all the best — from sorrowful Stan and the whole batty Bullpen.

ITEM! We'll end the suspense right here and now! Replacing our departing Production Chief will be none other than JUMBO JOHNNY VERPOORTEN, Marvel's many-faceted Jack-Of-All-Arts! Jovial J. V. will be forsaking his inking chores on the FANTASTIC FOUR as well as his cataclysmic coloring of our capricious covers in order to concentrate on our back-breaking production schedule. And, since everything that happens in this biz is like a game of falling dominoes, JOLTIN' JOE SINNOTT will once again return to the fabulous F. F. as permanent embellisher and resident kibitzer! Now, if we can only find a job for IRVING FORBUSH! Oh well . . .

ITEM! How about RASCALLY ROY and his beauteous bride, JEANIE? They've been attending the Halloween Parade each fall in Rutland, Vermont, where the revelers feature a flock of floats carrying superheroes on parade! In fact, last year Jeanie and Roy went as the INVISIBLE GIRL and SPIDER-MAN! (Of course, it can't be too hard to go as the Invisible Gal — all you've gotta do is — don't show up!) Anyway, don't miss the current ish of AVENGERS, because it features that same Rutland Parade, with our awesome assemblers themselves taking part in the whole magilla!

ITEM! How about another name-dropping session, gang? (Remember last month?) We're bustin' to mention the roster of famous names who really dig our newest sales sensation, CONAN THE BARBARIAN. So here's a grateful Marvel Mention to top science-fiction and screen writer HARLAN ELLISON — the prominent newspaper journalist DON THOMPSON and his talented wife MAGGIE — writer and ERBurroughs expert DICK LUPOFF — literary agent for the R. E. Howard estate GLENN LORD — s-f author and editor TED WHITE — and H. P. Lovecraft's old friend and fellow writer, AUGUST DERLETH! The list is almost endless, but the available copies of CONAN aren't — so don't wait too long till you grab ish #2, which is still on sale! (Unabashed plug!)

ITEM! Another couple of young, promising newcomers have just joined our riotous ranks! So say "hi" to BASHFUL BERNI WRIGHTSON who's been doing our mystery covers lately, as well as penciling, inking, coloring, and co-authoring a yarn in TOWER OF SHADOWS #8! Also, let's welcome ROARIN' RICH BUCKLER, who's presently penciling a brand-new thriller for us. We wanna keep you in suspense a while longer, but we think the title, MAN WOLF, is sure to grab ya!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Here's one for the book Believe! Remember a year or so ago when I mentioned that we were discontinuing our policy of presenting continued stories? We intended to make each yarn complete in itself, right? Well, a strange thing happened. We learned that we have far less control over our stories than we thought. Even though we think of ourselves as their authors, each plot has a way of determining its own direction, its own length! We soon realized our little program just wasn't working out the way we expected. Try as we might, we ended up stretching our story lines over two, and sometimes even three issues again, just as we had been doing in the past. But, here's the kicker. Even though we've long since thrown in the sponge — even though we've been running as many continued stories as ever for the past few months — we STILL get hundreds of letters a week demanding that we abandon our one-plot-per-issue policy and return to continued stories! In other words, a whole kaboodle of mixed-up Marvelites are asking us to what we've BEEN doing all along! So let's hear it from some of the psychology majors among you. Can we formulate a new maxim? Perhaps something like: "The statement of intent may, under certain circumstances, carry more weight than the deed itself." Perhaps the whole furshlugginer concept can be sold to Congress — although I suspect that they've been applying that same little principle since before we were born!

Onward!

Stan

"A RIOTOUS ROUND-UP OF RIDICULOUS RUMORS AND RABELAISIAN REPORTS!"

ITEM! It's time to play artistic musical chairs again! We were all rapping in the Bullpen the other day and a few of our peerless pencil-pushers were mentioning various strips they'd like to draw. So, we thought it would be a kick to make a switcheroo or two and see what happens. Here's how it all came out: Starting with Ish #107, the fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR will be drawn by the Big Man himself, none other than JOHN BUSCEMA! Meanwhile, ol' RING-A-DING ROMITA, who's been pining for his favorite strip, will once again take over the artistic reins of SPIDER-MAN — at least until the next switch-over session. However, the adorable AVENGERS won't be completely Buscema-less, 'cause John's brother SAL BUSCEMA will replace J.B. in drawing the most super-hero-filled spectaculars of all. Y'know, it just occurs to us, we oughtta publish scorecards — 'cause here at mixed-up Marvel, you can't tell who's doing what without one!

ITEM! We sure hope you caught SPIDEY'S recent Ish #92 — the one featuring ICEMAN. The reason we mention it is that our chilly little cherub was such a smash hit in that yarn that we've been toying with the idea of giving Iceman a strip of his own. So, as soon as we can find an artist and writer who can stand the temperature (ouch!), don't be too surprised —!

ITEM! We may not be the biggest staff in the world, but we sure are becoming the most widely travelled! Every time we turn around, it seems that one of our guys or gals is either heading overseas or just returning from there. As these portentous words are being penned, RASCALLY ROY THOMAS has just completed a three-weeks sojourn in Great Britain; and even as he headed back to the welcoming Bullpen, JUMBO JOHNNY VERPOORTEN, our demon penciller, inker, and brand-new production chief, just started winging his way towards a vacation in West Ge.many! (We kinda hope he remembered to take a *plane!*) Then, exactly five minutes ago, GENIAL GENE COLAN phoned to tell us he's leaving for Europe in a couple of days — if CAPTAIN AMERICA and DARE DEVIL can spare him for a while. But don't worry, we know he'll be back soon — we scared him by saying that HONEST IRVING FORBUSH has been practicing drawing both those strips — and you know what a threat ol' Irv can be!

ITEM! Speaking of overseas voyagers, BASHFUL BARRY SMITH has finally completed arrangements to emigrate from England and make little old New York his home. We're pleased as punch with this new development, especially since it seems that Barry's newest mag, CONAN THE BARBARIAN, promises to be one of the biggest comic-magazine smash hits of the decade. So who can blame us for not wanting to let this young, talented Britisher out of our sight?

ITEM! We try to make it a point not to plug any of our titles too enthusiastically on this page, because these are supposed to be news items rather than hard-sell ads. However, once in a great while a magazine comes along which is so special, so unusually exciting, that we just have to tell you about it. Such a mag is THOR #104, featuring the saga of "The World Beyond!" It introduces a whole new concept in far-out fantasy, and brings you such mysterious characters as The Silent One, and — Infinity! We predict that this issue will create as much of a stir as the FANTASTIC FOUR created years ago when it first introduced the uncanny Inhumans. The artwork by BIG JOHN BUSCEMA is just not to be believed — and STAN THE MAN'S script — well, it's somethin' else! Okay, that's the end of the plug — you know how we hate to brag!

ITEM! Remember some months ago when we tried a little experiment? We wrote an entire SPIDER-MAN story without using exclamation points — except where they were really needed. We wanted to see if the exclamation points were really necessary insofar as giving a comic strip that certain feeling of excitement. Well, apparently there aren't that many punctuation buffs among you, because we didn't receive as much mail as we expected about this earth-shattering subject. Just a few letters straggled in, mostly telling us that it didn't make much difference whether we used the ex. points or not. So, instead of making a major policy change, we'll leave this monumental matter to the discretion of each individual writer — and that takes care of that!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

One thing we've always promised to do is level with you. After all, you're both our reader, and our friend — and no one is more deserving of being taken into our confidence. Therefore, we want to give you the straight scoop as to why the SILVER SURFER is no longer being published. In a nutshell, we had to drop it — 'cause it was losing money! But, as you may guess, there's a bit more to the story than that. Actually, the Surfer was one of our biggest successes from the standpoint of reader acceptance. Those who bought it were fanatical about it. The silvery sky-rider became an almost immediate sensation on campuses thruout the free world. Announcers on FM radio stations began to quote from the stories and to read portions of them over the air. The Surfer's philosophical musings were actually discussed in pulpits thruout the nation. Truly, we had succeeded in our goal — we had created a comic book for the older reader, for the more literate, more perceptive, more cognizant fan. But, in so doing, the Surfer's exploits were too far over the heads of many of our younger readers, and for that reason, we lost a great many sales, since no comic magazine can be financially successful unless it sells to young and old alike. Finally, we realized there were only two choices — drop the magazine, or change the format so that it would be more acceptable to the younger reader. Rather than compromise our own integrity, or be untrue to our own objectives, we have chosen to discontinue the magazine. Needless to say, your own comments and opinions on this matter will be very much appreciated.

Onward!

Stan

MIGHTY MARVEL IS ON THE MOVE AGAIN!!

CEREBRAL COMMENTS AND COGENT CRITIQUES, CAPRICIOUSLY CREATED WITH CARE AND CANDOR!

ITEM! It's common knowledge by now that our leader, SMILIN' STAN, entered the comic-book field at the age of seventeen, and became an editor shortly thereafter. (Of course, that was long ago, during the first Golden Age of Comics. Today, the bearded one, still going strong, seems to be our answer to Methuselah!) Anyway, what we're leading up to is — young at-heart Marvel has always been youth-oriented, and never more so than today. Just look at the evidence, Dubious One. RASCALLY ROY THOMAS, Stan's award-winning associate editor and rollickin' writer-in-residence, after years of Bullpen bondage is still comfortably under the age of thirty! AMIABLE ALLYN BRODSKY, our erudite editorial aide de-camp, has yet to reach the ripe old age of twenty-six! The same goes for MARVELOUS MIMI GOLD, JOLLY JIMMY PETTY, and HECTIC HOLLY RESNICOFF — sensational staffers all! And now, a handful of new names for you to take hold of, toy with, and treasure forever. First, meet MERRY GERRY CONWAY, pushin' towards twenty, who's already got a couple of science-fiction paperback sales under his belt and who cut his artistic eyeteeth at Marvel scripting mystery yarns and KA-ZAR's capers. Gerry will be writing DAREDEVIL, and IRON MAN as well, from here on in — and, despite what the competition may say, it isn't true that he still pays half fare on the subway! And how about LIVELY LENNIE WEIN, BASHFUL BARRY SMITH, RIGHTEOUS RICHIE BUCKLER, and MADCAP MIKE FRIEDRICH — all well under twenty-five, and all appearing in the pandemonious pages of mighty Marvel with ever-increasing frequency! Of course, it's not just because we're hooked on youngsters — sly ol' Stan figures that if ever we get bored with turning out comic-mags, we can always convert to running a nursery!

ITEM! Lest you think that grey hairs turn us off, it's only fair to mention that many of Marveldom's all-time greats — who are turning out the finest, most relevant strips of all today — are well on the other side of thirty-five! Want proof? Well, ever hear of these guys —? a feila named LEE! A ROMITA ring-a-ding! A couple of BUSCEMA brothers! A gent called COLAN! And a few other assorted artistic titans known as SINNOTT, EVERETT, MOONEY, MORTELLARO, HECK, KANE, AYERS, TUSKA, WOOD, SHORES, and SEVERIN! (By that last we mean JOHN S. of course: nobody in the blushin' Bullpen would ever suggest that MIRTHFUL MARIE is anything but ageless!) And while we're at it, let's not forget our "twilight zone" whiz kids who've kinda outgrown their beanie caps, though they're still young enough for stickball. In other words, closing in on thirty (from one side or the other), we've got HAPPY HERBIE TRIMPE, STURDY STU SCHWARTZBERG, TERRIFIC TOMMY PALMER, JUMBO JOHNNY VERPOORTEN, DAPPER DANNY ADKINS, LAUGHIN' LARRY LIEBER, and NEFARIOUS NEAL ADAMS! Yessir, when it comes to talent, you can throw the calendar out the window — at least, so it seems to the ageless wonders at 625 Madison!

ITEM! Wait'll you see the magic that TOM PALMER's inking lends to GENE COLAN's pencil work on this month's CAPTAIN AMERICA! And then, next month — prepare for the most electrifying change-over of all, as WILD BILL EVERETT embellishes Gene's artwork — giving Cap and the fighting Falcon a luster and an excitement such as they've never had before!

ITEM! Just wanna tip our hat in thanks to TITANIC TONY MORTELLARO for the tremendous job he did in pinch-hitting as Production Chief while J. J. VERPOORTEN was on vacation. (No, Irving, J. J. doesn't stand for Jolly Jonah Jameson! It's Jumbo Johnny! Now stand in the corner!) By the way, remember FABULOUS FLO STEINBERG, our gone-but-not-forgotten Gal Friday? Well, ol' J. J. ran into her in Europe, where she too was vacationing, and they both had a blast swapping stories about our mixed-up mags and the madmen who make them tick!

ITEM! Speaking of vacations, who do you think RASCALLY ROY and his lovely JEAN bumped into while sojourning in merrie old England? That's right, none other than CONAN THE BARBARIAN's peerless penciller, BASHFUL BARRY SMITH, who's eagerly counting the days till he embarks for the States as a permanent resident, where we're hoping he'll be able to turn out twice as many action-packed pages of CONAN and other thrillers as ever before! And, did we tell you about the pub Roy visited in Picadilly Circus? It's called the Duke of Argyll, and it's decorated inside and out with — you guessed it — our own Marvel heroes and villains! Even the ceiling has our high-flying SILVER SURFER gazing soulfully down at you, wistfully dreaming, no doubt, of the glory and grandeur that was!

ITEM! One answer to the question of why JIM STERANKO has been absent from our pages recently is the fact that he's been hard at work writing his monumental HISTORY OF THE COMICS. Stan no sooner read the first copy than he grabbed the phone to congratulate the jaunty one on the cataclysmic job he'd done. (And, since Jim lives in Pennsylvania, and we all know how stingy Smiley is, you can imagine how our leader must have liked it!) Anyway, just to complete the age table we mentioned earlier, Jim is presently just on the shady side of thirty — and we've been wondering whether to congratulate him, sympathize with him, or simply adopt him!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Every few months (mainly when I can't think of anything else to write!), I try to spell out the somewhat elusive, ephemeral Marvel philosophy. Well, just the other day, one of the largest magazine publishers in Japan, who has been presenting our own SPIDER-MAN to a wildly enthusiastic Japanese audience, requested a brief resumé of our philosophy for his readers. It occurred to us that you might enjoy reading this updated version. And so —

"Our Marvel sagas originate in the United States — but, in a true sense, they belong to the world. Our theme is justice, tempered by tolerance, honed by humor, and leavened with love. We support people everywhere — people striving to improve themselves and their lives — people working and praying for a better world, a world without war. Our heroes are your heroes — our villains your villains — our problems your problems, as are our triumphs and defeats. We espouse no cause save the cause of freedom — no philosophy save the brotherhood of man. Our purpose is to entertain — to take the world as it is and show it as it might be — as it could be — and perhaps, as it should be. We hope to please you, excite you, broaden the horizons of your imagination, and appeal to your sense of wonder. And so, we promise you, our friends across the sea, that we will never relax our efforts to provide the very finest stories and artwork — to bring you the most original, most imaginative, and most thought-provoking adventures of all. Though we are separated by a vast ocean, we are linked together by a love of fantasy, by a taste for the unusual, and by the mutual respect that men of good will have for each other no matter what tongue they speak no matter where they may live. I welcome you to the wonderful world of Marvel — long may we dwell here together!"

Excelsior!

Stan

WONDROUS WORDS OF WIT AND WISDOM WITH WHICH TO WASTE SOME TIME!

ITEM! Mystery fans! If you're too impatient to wait till we reveal the secret of Infinity's identity in THE MIGHTY THOR, you'll find a clue in FANTASTIC FOUR #108. (It's subtle, and carefully hidden — but, we wanted to let you know.)

ITEM! If you've been wondering why you haven't seen too much of SAM ROSEN'S lettering in our mags lately, it's because he's been ill for a while. But, we just wanted to let his army of fans know that Sammy's on the mend again, and the whole happy Bullpen (including overworked ARTIE SIMEK) is glad to welcome him back.

ITEM! Talk about explosive events! Mighty Marvel was the toast of fandom when it presented, for the first time in comic-book form, the mind-staggering adventures of CONAN THE BARBARIAN, greatest of all sword-and-sorcery heroes. But now, another bombshell! In answer to an avalanche of requests, and because we wanna do it too, the current issue of CONAN heralds the first of a startling series of adaptations of the immortal Conan tales originally written by ROBERT E. HOWARD himself — creator of the battling Cimmerian! The thriller is "The Tower of the Elephant," earliest in setting of all Conan sagas — and, if you've savored it in the original, you won't wanna miss seeing how RASCALLY ROY and BASHFUL BARRY put it all together. And if you haven't read the R.E.H. original, then a real mind boggling treat awaits you within the pages of CONAN #4! We kid thee not, by Crom!

ITEM! Just a word of advice to all you stalwarts who constantly bombard us with requests for subscriptions. We wouldn't know how to process a subscription if DR. DOOM himself was after it. All those momentous matters are referred to NIFTY NANCY MURPHY, who does her thing in an office which is like at the other end of the world! So, to save yourself a lot of time, and to save us the trouble of dragging your letters over to our mirthful Miss Murphy, why not address any request for subs directly to the gal in charge. Simply send your poignant little postal request to NANCY MURPHY, 625 MADISON AVE., NYC NY 10021. Then hang loose, hero. Your goodies will soon be on the way.

ITEM! Well, it's name-dropping time here at the Bullpen again, so let's let 'em drop where they may. We just had a real chatty visit from talented VIC GHIDALIA of ABC-TV. He dropped by to compliment us on the quality of our famous, far-out, fantasy yarns. (And ol' Vic oughtta know whereof he speaks. He's recently co-edited "BEWARE THE BEASTS" and "THE LITTLE MONSTERS," two of the newest, scariest pocket books around!) Vic was telling us that some of the biggest late-nite talk show hosts are bidding for a number of your Bullpenners to brighten up their talkfests. So, keep watching your local channels, hear? And, speaking of sports, which we weren't, don't dare miss the new issue of PRO, the magazine of the National Football League. Why? Because the cover features nine (Count 'em! Nine!) Marvel superheroes, and there is page after page of great, full-color illustrations by BIG JOHN BUSCEMA in which he draws our own costumed caverters in the same poses as the NFL's legendary, lethal linebackers! It's not to be missed, mister! Now let's congratulate BOB RALEIGH JR., disc jockey on WPGC Radio, Washington, D.C., for being named by BILLBOARD as one of the top 25 air personalities in the U.S. (Bob also holds a Master's Degree — but doesn't every Marvel maniac?) Ol' Robert has had real flattering things to say about our fun filled fables, and we thank him for all the unblushing bouquets he's given us over the airwaves. Also, a tip of the Marvel beanie-cap to all the Dee-Jays everywhere who've been quoting from our yarns and propagating the faith on their own swingin' shows. Hey, didja hear about our leader getting letters from two of the world's top film creators on the same day? The one from awesomely artistic ALAIN RESNAIS just broke us up as the great French director penned a zillion anecdotes about movie-making on the continent — but the other one from the fabulous FEDERICO FELLINI, really took the cake. The world-famed maestro penned his letter in Italian, and poor Stan spent half the day racing around to get it translated. But you can bet your favorite fortune cookie, when he finally read it, it was more than worth the trouble. And now, a personal aside to both those master movie-makers: We'll always be grateful for your interest in our work, your valued friendship, and your enthusiastic awareness of the close relationship between our comic-books and the cinematic arts. Excelsior!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Question: Is there such a thing as too much success? Answer: There sure is! Example: The most recent issues of CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON. It all started because we try to make our letters pages meaningful and intellectually stimulating. We've always attempted to avoid the usual "Your mag's groovy. Keep up the good work" or "Your mag stinks. Get lost" kind of thing. But (and here's where the too-much-success bit comes in), almost every letter to Cap and the Falcon now deals with social issues, civil rights, patriotism, Viet Nam, and student unrest. We suddenly realized that nobody's saying anything about the stories themselves! So, our problem boils down to this — should we change our format to 20 pages of letters with a two-page story? Or, perhaps just change the title to TIME/WEEK? It's funny — we always wanted Cap (and all our characters) to be human, to be relevant. Even though the plots may be fantasy-filled and seemingly outrageous, we wanted you to relate to the real-life problems that crop up — problems which may even parallel your own. Well, you've been relating, all right! You've gotten so involved that all your mail seems to concern the world at large, and the conflicts and divisions that are assaulting our society. We're proud of your concern — thrilled by your insight, and your enthusiasm — but we're worried about our stories! Is anybody reading them? Hasn't anyone noticed how great Gene's pencilling looks with Bill Everett's inking? Won't anyone mention that Cap's adventures are more action-packed and wondrous than ever? We wish you'd even find a mistake or two, just to let us know you're there! Come on, talk about the stories again, just for a while, huh? Otherwise they may replace us — with Walter Cronkite!

Onward!

Stan

INDISPUTABLY INCREDIBLE ITEMS TO INCITE YOUR INTEREST, INTENSIFY YOUR INVOLVEMENT, AND INCREASE YOUR INFORMATION

ITEM! Here's the announcement you've been waiting for. For those of you who've wondered when we'd break with tradition and enter the next phase of comic-book presentation — namely, publications for the more adult reader, in illustrated panel form — you need wonder no longer. We're proud to announce that, by the time you read these momentous words, our first R-rated publication will already be on sale! It's called SAVAGE TALES, and sells for 50¢ — with 64 pages of the most mind-boggling stories and artwork you've ever seen between two covers! You'll find CONAN THE BARBARIAN, the unbelievably savage KA-ZAR, the most beautiful AMAZONS of all time, and other tales that your eyes and your mind will never forget! Scripted by STAN THE MAN, RASCALLY ROY, and MERRY GERRY CONWAY — with the kind of artwork you've always dreamed of, by BIG JOHN BUSCEMA, BASHFUL BARRY SMITH, GENIAL GENE COLAN, ol' RING-A-DING ROMITA, and GRACIOUS GRAY MORROW — all in breath-taking black-and-white halftones, with each illustration in the mag worthy of framing and displaying all by itself — and you better believe it! So, if you're old enough to drive, zoom — do not walk — to your newsstand, 'cause we promise you this — the word is already out — and SAVAGE TALES #1 is destined to become the biggest and fastest best-seller since Hugh Hefner discovered girls! And, for those of you who've been muttering that mighty Marvel is content to rest on its laurels — read SAVAGE TALES, repentant one — and bite your tongue!

ITEM! Hey, how about HAPPY HERBIE TRIMPE? Talk about having your own fan club — wow! Ol' Green-Skin's stepfather actually had a documentary movie filmed about himself, entitled "Herb Trimpe, We Love You!", or "We Love Herb Trimpe", or something like that. (Actually, we're so doggone jealous that we can't even remember the name!) Anyway, a bunch of N.Y.U. film-makers marched over to the Bullpen the other day and actually shot part of their documentary in the hallowed halls of Marvel while all the guys and gals tried to pretend they were going on with their work! If production plans bear fruit, you may actually see the movie-making masterpiece on N.E.T. (National Educational Television) one of these days. We'll keep you posted, if we have time — 'cause we're kinda busy preventing Herbie from going Hollywood!

ITEM! Speaking of show biz, STAN THE MAN was featured in a nationally televised CBS-TV interview the other day but we can't tell you much about it. The interview was presented in the morning, just at the time that all of us were on the way to work! However, if it's any consolation to anybody, our milkman saw it, and said it was pretty far-out!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

We received a letter recently which was unsigned, but I thought the point raised by our anonymous writer might be of interest to Marveldom Assembled. Briefly, we were taken to task because many of our stories seem to deal with real issues, such as pollution, civil rights, campus unrest, etc. Our unnamed correspondent writes that "Marvel is trying to brainwash the public," and that "your kind of people are pulling the wool over your readers' eyes." The part that hurt the most was when he said, "You're probably doing it because you think it's the 'in' thing to do — and to make a fast buck."

Okay — rebuttal time! During the early years of Marvel's growth, our more aware readers used to ask why we didn't editorialize more, and I'd answer that we didn't feel it was within our purview. However, as time went by, and we realized that our readership was far more mature, far wiser than anyone had suspected, we began to touch upon real issues, real problems that confront this woebegone world of ours. Now, here's the hairy part. The more relevant our stories became, the more flak we took from every spectrum of opinion. The radicals claim we're too archaic! The conservatives claim we're too liberal! The doves call us hawks, and the hard-hats call us peaceniks! The Pollyannas say we're harbingers of doom, while the drop-outs and cop-outs tell us we're living in a fools' paradise! No matter what we write or draw, half of you disagree — and, just between us, that's the way it oughtta be! We don't characterize ourselves with any particular labels. We represent virtually every shade of opinion, and like most of you, we're just trying to make some sense out of the nutty news items and ridiculous reports that assail our senses every minute. If we can make you think — if we can anger you, arouse you, stimulate and provoke you, then we've served our purpose. In fact, how's this for a new Marvel motto: "Entertainment — with a kick in it"?

Onward!

Stan

ITEM! New! New! New! CONAN THE BARBARIAN, in answer to popular demand (Pete Popular demanded it), is now on sale monthly! New! New! New! Watch for another sensational title from The House of Ideas — KING KULL, by the Rascally One and none other than an old favorite whom we've finally corralled once again — RAPTUROUS ROSS ANDRU. If you like CONAN, you'll swing with KING (KULL, that is!). New! New! New! Another of comicdom's greats has joined the Bullpen! Say hello to GARDNER (FEARLESS) FOX, who's already hard at work at a brand new series starring one of the AVENGERS' most sensational smash-hit characters — the rough-and-ready RED WOLF himself! — There's lots more, 'cause we're really rollin' now — but we'll save some for our next few issues. After all, how much wonderment can you take?

ITEM! People have been asking who writes the agonizingly alliterative headlines for these priceless pages each month. We always thought it was Our Leader, but he just hinted to us that he's had a bit of help — from some fella named Spiro. (We can't reveal his last name because he wouldn't want his boss to know he's been moonlighting!) Just goes to show you . . . everybody's into Marvel!

HINTS OF HILARIOUS HI-JINX AND HOMOGENEOUS HAPPENINGS HAPPILY HARVESTED FOR HEROES LIKE YOU!

ITEM! Remember when we asked you to send us some one-liners beginning with "Life is—"? Well, we never knew there were so many philosophers amongst Marveldom Assembled. We were swamped with 'em. And now, just to get us off to a nutty start, here are a few typical samples of the zillions we received: "Life is a four-letter word!" "Life is when you're not dead!" "Life is tragedy for those who feel, and comedy for those who think!" "Life is a cosmic joke—and death, the punchline!" "Life is outside of Marvel Comics!" How about that? Our thanks to Tom King, Greg Sturgeon, Tom Lane, D. Brewer, and Raymond Vanover for the above—and to all you other geniuses whose entries made our reading a little more pleasant these past few months.

ITEM! Here's the latest scoop on some of our momentously mixed-up artist change-overs. GIL (SUGAR-LIPS) KANE has been doing such a great job on SPIDER-MAN that JAZZY JOHNNY ROMITA, who's been anxious for a change-of-pace, has eagerly turned the ol' Web-Swinger's reins over to garrulous Gil. But, don't think you've seen the last of Ring-A-Ding! Johnny is about to start pencilling none other than CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON, effective with the current ish. (After all, since Spidey himself is the guest star, why not?) As for GENE (THE DEAN) COLAN, we've a brand new project lined up for him—another 50¢ mag labelled M, for the mature reader; and we'll tell you more about it as soon as he finishes the first yarn. But, while we're waiting, Genial Gene will soon be lending his magical touch to the DR. DOOM series now running in ASTONISHING TALES. And, if you're wondering about WONDROUS WALLY WOOD, here's another bombshell: You'll find his awesome artistry appearing in the new, sensational KULL THE CONQUEROR, on sale this very minute! Also, before we forget, HONEST JOHN SEVERIN has just returned to the fold, teaming up with ROSS (BOSS) ANDRU to bring you one of the most electrifying SUB-MARINER mags of all. And, if you think we'll forget to tell you that LONESOME GEORGE TUSKA is once more responsible for the amazin' artwork on IRON MAN—you're right—we almost forgot! There's lots more, but let's save it so we'll have something to toss at the next month.

ITEM! Got time for some name-dropping again? Okay, let's go! If anyone claims that comic-mags aren't like show biz, don't tell it to STAN and ROY. Our two swashbucklin' scripters have been having a ball lately. Stan, in addition to his screenplay writing, is currently working on a new long-play album with ICARUS, the barnstormin' bombshell British group. And most of you probably saw him on TO TELL THE TRUTH recently, as the panel tried to guess the real Stan Lee. Of course, that was before he cut two tapes for CBC (the CANADIAN BROADCASTING CO.), as well as filming a TV appearance on the same network—just after spending two hilarious hours on NYC radio station WMCA's ALEX BENNETT show, where our leader knocked 'em dead by reading a few pages of Spider-Man to the world outside! As for Rollickin' Roy, he was on the famous JOE FRANKLIN radio stanza, reminiscing about the past (which isn't easy to do when you're still on the sunny side of thirty!)—and then, before the applause had a chance to fade, he hied himself thither to CARDOZA COLLEGE at Long Island's STONYBROOK U., where he spent his time fielding students' questions on everything from the relative strength of Thor and the Hulk, to the relevance and role of comic-books in today's troubled world. (And, off the record, Roy tells us that, if he had to make a choice, he prefers the former!) Anyway, judging by all the lecture requests and talk-show invites that are continually bombarding ye benevolent Bullpen, it seems that our bewildering brand of Marvel madness is still as habit-forming as ever—and that's just the way we want it!

ITEM! Hey, how about a salute to Marvel's unsung heroes—the plucky paint-pushers who color our lively little epics thru rain, and storm, and spring fever! Dean of our cosmic coloring staff is none other than STAN GOLDBERG, who also draws MILLIE THE MODEL whenever we're not looking. Next we have MARVELOUS MIMI GOLD, who specializes in THE HULK, CONAN, and DAREDEVIL. (The coloring, that is!) NEFARIOUS NEAL ADAMS colors his own INHUMANS, just as TERRIFIC TOM PALMER applies the tintinnabulatin' tints to the DAREDEVIL sagas which he inks. SAUCY SHARON COHEN, as all Marveldom knows, is the one who lends many-hued sparkle to IRON MAN, SGT. FURY, and the RAWHIDE KID. Then, whenever we're in a jam (like always!) —MERRY MARIE SEVERIN, PLUCKY PAUL REINMAN and BIG BILL EVERETT are always there to lend us a hand. Now that we've exposed these starting stalwarts to the public gaze, you know who to write to when you wanna complain about the color of Bruce Banner's trousers, or some other equally world-shattering matter! (We'll do *anything* to pass the buck!)

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Lately, more and more people have been discussing the relevancy of comics. Whenever the conversation arises, comic-books are inevitably compared to movies, plays, and TV shows, and those of us involved in the scripting of a comic are usually asked how our efforts compare to the creation of a scenario for stage, screen, or television. Since there's so much interest in the subject, I'd like to attempt to illuminate it a bit, though my premise may surprise you. Actually, writing a visible comic-book story is probably more difficult than writing a script for any other medium! Why? Well, think about it a bit. Though the comic-book script requires the same attention to characterization, the same realistic dialogue, and the same dramatic literary structure as any other type of scenario, only the comic-book writer must contend with the torturous limitation of space! Only the comic book scripter must capsulize, in a few brief dialogue balloons, the same premise that an author in any other medium may take page after page to expand upon. Yet, the comic-book writer, limited to a few words per dialogue balloon, must give his reader the same reading satisfaction, mental stimulation, and cultural fulfillment as any other practitioner of the literary arts. And so far we've only discussed the script-writing—we haven't even touched upon the inimitable artwork. An analysis of some of the important facets of comic-book illustration will follow in a future soapbox—as soon as we can figure out what they are.

Onward!

Stan

FUNKY FACTS AND FREAKY FABLES, FROM THE FICKLE FINGER OF FORBUSH!

ITEM! Don't miss the big changes among our swingin' superheroes! What big changes? We hoped you'd ask. For example, CAPTAIN AMERICA starts a new life this month! What happens to the Thing shouldn't happen to a Yancy Streeter as he battles the Hulk in FANTASTIC FOUR #112! SAVAGE TALES (Our M-rated mag — for the mature reader) looks like such a howlin' hit that we're following it up with a ghoulish 50¢ goodie called THE TOMB OF DRACULA. (Or THE HOUSE OF DRACULA. We haven't decided yet.) It's a wholly new concept, starring Dracula himself, as he is — was — and perhaps will be. With art by GENE COLAN, BERNI WRIGHTSON, and GRAY MORROW among others, and a team of the world's most titanic scripters, headed by Marvel's merry masters, SMILIN' STAN and RASCALLY ROY themselves! May we modestly say — it ain't to be missed! As for SAVAGE TALES #2, we've corralled art by BARRY SMITH, JOHNNY BUSCEMA, GENE COLAN, NEAL ADAMS, and GRAY MORROW! And, a separate wondrous writer for each strip. Five great artists, five great authors, each creatively involved in trying to produce the type of illustrated thriller he himself would want to read!

ITEM! In answer to countless requests (that means we haven't had time to count 'em yet) from their DR. STRANGE team-up days, GENE COLAN and TOM PALMER are together again, as the regular art team in the ever-dynamic DAREDEVIL series!

ITEM! Remember us telling you there was a clue to the identity of Infinity (appearing in the now-classic THOR series), in a previous FANTASTIC FOUR ish? Well, the clue was this — our F.F. villain, Janus, was one man, representing both good and evil. Now, if you'll remember who Infinity really was (from THOR #188), you'll get the connection. (End of not-so-subtle double plug!)

ITEM! If you're wondering what happened to TOWER OF SHADOWS and CHAMBER OF DARKNESS, they're now titled MONSTERS ON THE PROWL and CREATURES ON THE LOOSE. And, if you wanna know why — so do we!

ITEM! Congratulations Department! How about TOM (PEERLESS) PALMER becoming the dazzled daddy of his very first child, a beauteous baby girl! And OUR PAL SAL BUSCEMA just welcomed his second incomparable image — a bouncing baby boy! Right on, gang!

ITEM! Hey, did everybody over 16 see "THERE'S A GIRL IN MY SOUP," with Peter Sellers and Goldie Hawn? No, we haven't turned into movie critics, but how about the fact that someone in the cast must be a rabid Marvel fan, 'cause there's a gigantic HULK poster on one wall of a pad which somehow keeps sneaking into the shots! And then there's the CAPTAIN AMERICA mag which was being read by a stalwart in blue during one of the more symbolic scenes in "BREWSTER McCLOUD"! So, our thanks to filmdom's fearless film-makers for spreading the faith, and holding ever-higher the burgeoning banners of Marvel Eternal!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Face it — you can't win! A few years ago, at the request of hundreds of fans, we eliminated most of the dialogue balloons and captions from our cataclysmic covers. As you might imagine, this made those same hundreds of fans ecstatically happy out there in the far-reaching vastness of Marveldom Assembled. But (natch — there's always a but!), no sooner were our covers virtually word-and-balloonless, then we received an equal amount of indignant letters from other fans, threatening us with all the fearsome fates of Forbushdom if we didn't start jazzing our mags up again with lots of copy on the covers! Finally, being the easily-intimidated idiots that we are, we reverted back to the original format and tried to concentrate on our yarns once more. But did they let us? Hoo hah! We're now getting just as many letters as we did the first time, but — with a difference! Now, we're being told that the addition of copy and captions makes our mildly-majestic mags look a bit juvenile. And that's the one critique that confuses us. (Not that we're hard to confuse!) You see, we've been studying other mags — those that are definitely not pointed solely for the bubble-gum brigade. Varied mags such as PLAYBOY, READER'S DIGEST, LIFE, LOOK, U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, etc. Now then — each and every one of 'em is often lavishly endowed with captions, blurbs, and cover copy of every sort. Therefore, sympathetic Sybarite, my question is this — why do so many frantic fans feel that a lot of copy on the cover gives a comic-mag a juvenile look? (Sure, we can come up with a zillion answers ourselves — but we happen to have a few rusty no-prizes left over, and so —). Send your most scholarly, sage, and scintillating answers to STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX, 625 Madison Ave., NYC, NY 10022. It may not do a thing for either of us, but think how impressed our mad-man's gonna be!

Onward!

Stan

ITEM! And, speaking of show biz, those of you watching KFVS-TV in Cape Girardeau, in the famous five-state area of S.E. Missouri, weren't imagining things when you thought you saw ROY THOMAS rambling about relevance in the comics. The Rascally One was visiting his parents' home in Missouri, and since we all know how the TV titans are tuned-in to Marvel, he ended up doing a 20-minute bit in his Brooks Brothers suit and tie, overlapped by his long blond hair — which must have totally confused everyone who was watching!

ITEM! DARLIN' DICK AYERS will soon be penciling one of Marvel's top superhero stanzas. We won't tell you which one it is yet, but how many characters do you know who have green skin? Wait'll you see it — it'll flap your earlobes! But don't worry about HAPPY HERBIE TRIMPE — we've got a few sensational projects mapped out for his magic pencil — and we'll tell you about 'em later on — when we're sure the competition isn't looking! But, in the meantime, we daren't forget to tell you that LONESOME GEORGE TUSKA will soon be doing two, count 'em — two, monthly mags for munificent Marvel! Which ones? Look around and see, omnipotent one. (We love to generate as much action as possible at your neighborhood newsstand!)

ITEM! We thought you'd like to know the ACADEMY OF COMIC BOOK ARTS' nominations for 1970. We've just room to tell you that, in the dramatic category, the nominees for Best Penciler are ADAMS, BUSCEMA, KIRBY. Best Inker: GIORDANO, PALMER, SINNOTT. Best Writer: LEE, O'NEIL, THOMAS. Best Continuing Feature: AVENGERS, FANTASTIC FOUR, GREEN LANTERN, SPIDER-MAN. Outstanding New Talent: CONWAY, SMITH, WRIGHTSON. We'll tip you off to the voting results in a few months, when ACBA has its Annual Awards Ceremony. By the way — our thanks to LOVABLE LENNIE PRICE, the cavortin' comedian who entertained at ACBA's last meeting, rolling the gang in the aisles with his rib-tickling routines based upon our crazy comics industry. Oh, and before we forget — any of you who are interested in becoming a SUSTAINING MEMBER of the Academy, can get further information by writing to the ACADEMY OF COMIC BOOK ARTS, 509 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017. (Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for all the dizzy details).

ITEM! Just wanna tell you that we've nothing left to tell you! Excelsior!

EVERYTHING YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BULLPEN, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK!

ITEM! Okay, here it is—your first official notice! So don't say that we didn't alert you. The great, long-awaited 100th issue of SPIDER-MAN will soon be on sale! We've been preparing for it for months—planning a story which will be truly different; truly worthy of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the world's most popular, most sensational, and most relevant superhero. We're not trumpeting this extraordinary event just to rake in an extra few pennies, honest! (Although we've never been known to complain about making money!) It's just that we know you'll never forgive us if we let you miss this landmark edition. 'Nuff said!

ITEM! Speaking of landmark editions, here's one for the books: The current HULK thriller, now on sale, is based on TOM WOLFE'S brilliant best-seller "Radical Chic," and Tom himself actually appears in the yarn. He said he's always wanted to be a Marvel superhero—and nobody says them there kinda things lightly around the ol' Bullpen! To call this issue "off-beat" would be like saying that Raquel Welch isn't too bad looking!

ITEM! Here's some more good news for the Marvel-minded millions! RECKLESS REED CRANDALL, one of comicdom's all-time greats (remember his breath-taking illustrations in the old-time E.C. mags?) is planning to return from his hibernation out west and rejoins his long-time-no-see buddies here at the Bullpen! We can't wait till you see what this cat can do with a pen and ink. (His first assignment may be in one of our M-rated mags—SAVAGE TALES or DRACULA—so make a note, Mature One!)

ITEM! While talking about Reed, we just remembered another, equally exciting item for you. AMIABLE AL WILLIAMSON, another widely-heralded E.C. alumnus, will be forsaking his newspaper and book illustration long enough to also help us usher in the Marvel Age of Awesome Artistry! We just spoke to Al the other day and decided he's been away from us too long—so keep the faith, Forbush-Lover—and watch for the new excitement that's hurtling your way!

ITEM! Hey, gang, have pity on us, huh? Just 'cause our mixed-up mags are big on campus, and SMILIN' STAN is the darlin' of the literary lecture circuit, that doesn't mean we've got the time to help you with your term papers, treatises, or doctoral theses! We seem to receive a couple of dozen letters each week from Marvel-oriented students who tell us they're doing a term paper, or some such, about the Marvel Mystique—and would we send them all the info we can about our organization, our modus operandi, our future plans and projections, and a detailed analysis of our collective philosophy! Well, we're flattered as all get-out that anyone would care—and it breaks our hearts to have to disappoint any of you—but we hardly have the time for coffee breaks, let alone being able to engage in the kind of correspondence that such requests would necessitate! So have a heart, hero—please don't ask us to collaborate with you on your school reports. Anyway, think how we'd feel if we did—and you flunked!

ITEM! Here's a real sentimental scoop! Two of our top talents just happen to be brother and sister. We're referring, of course, to HONEST JOHN SEVERIN and his sweet 'n saucy kid sis, our own MIRTHFUL MARIE SEVERIN. Well, it seems that Johnny is moving his wife and six little Severins out to Colorado, where men are men (and the taxes are lower!) We won't mention the name of the city, because we don't want our crafty competitors to try'n track him down. Anyway, before leaving New York, Johnny and Marie have collaborated on a strip—something they've wanted to do for years. It's none other than the sensational second issue of our newest hit publication, KULL THE CONQUEROR! When you feast your baby-blues on the results of the Severin team-up, we've a hunch you're gonna holler for more. (But not too loud, hear? We'll be listening—we promise!)

ITEM! (Now, let's keep 'em short and squeeze in as many as space allows.) GENIAL GENE COLAN is teaching a part time course on comics at a school in his home town in New Jersey! Right on, ol' buddy!—Watch for Marvel's newest title, out soon. It's "RED WOLF," based on the cataclysmic character introduced in AVENGERS #80—but, the time is a hundred years earlier, in the days of the really wild West! Written by GARDNER (FEARLESS) FOX and illustrated by SYD (THE KID) SHORES, it'll knock you outta your saddle.—Incidentally, didja know that Syd was one of the earliest CAPTAIN AMERICA artists during the first Golden Age of Comics? Well, when you see his work on RED WOLF, you'll know why comics are better'n ever!—Regards to LILTIN' LYNN WOLLEY, news-reporting nabob at radio station KNOW in Houston, Texas, where he's been doing his bludgeonin' best to help promote our befuddled brand of Marvel madness.—And, leave us not forget New York's own MIKE TURNER, at WABC-FM, another disc-spinning super-fan who hilariously hosted Our Leader for a long and laugh-filled gab-fest at one of his late-night stanzas.—Finally, did you hear about DOUG KENNEY, editor of the far-out NATIONAL LAMPOON, coming to see us? He and Stan rapped for hours, and when the confab finally broke up, we're still not sure whether Lampy is gonna do a parody of us—or sue us 'cause we haven't paid for our subscription! But, that's the way it is in Marvel-land!

EXCELSIOR!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

A couple issues back we discussed a few aspects of comic-book script writing. So, it now seems only fair to yak it up about the artwork that graces our phantasmagoric pages. Have you ever stopped to think how multi-talented a Marvel artist has to be? Not only must he be the equal of any book, magazine, or advertising illustrator, but he must also be a master story-teller, as well. Remember, here at the Bullpen, we work differently than at any other comic-book company. Here, the artist actually collaborates with the writer on the structure of the story. Working from the script-writer's synopsis, the artist himself develops the story pictorially, and only then is the artwork returned to the writer so that he may add the required dialogue and captions. Our illustrators must be masters of dramatic portrayal—of visual characterization—of anatomy, composition, and continued-action layout. Not only must they create a viable, three-dimensional world on paper, but they must then imbue it with life, with excitement, with a sense of belief. And, above all, unlike the so-called "fine artist" who can work at his leisure over a single drawing, the comic-book illustrator must create his panels one after the other, always speeding towards an impending deadline, with one eye ever on the clock and the calendar, producing from one to three pages a day—day after day—in this, the comic-book field—a truly native American form of art which, in a few short decades, has made its influence felt throughout the entire globe. As an editor and writer, I proudly salute the magnificently dedicated, monumentally talented comic-book artists who have made the world a little more thrilling, a little more dramatic, and a lot more colorful for us all.

Excelsior!

Stan

INDISPUTABLY IRRELEVANT ITEMS OF INCONTESTABLY LASTING INCONSEQUENCE!

ITEM! Did you know that we're presently working on a mildly magnificent Marvel art exhibit? It's being prepared for display at Emerson College in Boston, under the guiding hand of Shel Feldner. Emerson's talented assistant professor of drama, and Marvel fan extraordinaire. If it proves to be as successful as we expect it to be, we're planning to convert it into a permanent exhibit which will travel around the country for showings at countless campuses and galleries. Who knows — we may become the Barnum and Bailey of the comic book biz!

ITEM! By the time this momentous mention appears in print (we're writing this page on March 1st months before you'll get to read it) BARRY SMITH should be back in the USA, having returned from his two-year sojourn in merrie old England, land of his birth. While he was there, whipping out his cataclysmic CONAN strips, he also found time to do an illustration for the Beatles' song "Come Together," which will appear in *The Second Illustrated Beatles Lyrics*. Not bad for a country lad!

ITEM! Speaking of England, the gang in the Bullpen recently commissioned a most glamorous messenger when STAN LEE'S beauteous British wife JOANIE made a flying visit to London. Due to the mail strike which was then in effect, our leader's better half volunteered to bring back some much-needed artwork from Barry, as well as a large selection of musical material from ICARUS, the brilliant British group which is just completing a far-out Marvel album. All in all, it looks like mighty Marvel has accounted for more than its share of transatlantic travel lately.

ITEM! Just thought you'd like to know that SYD SHORES' long-awaited RED WOLF is gonna be inked by none other than WALLY WOOD! Now if that's not the most titanic team-up of the year, what is?

ITEM! Say hello to Marvel's newest staffer, SAL AMENDOLA. Sagacious Sal's our pundit of proofreading, and the latest addition to our prolific production department. One of these days, when we get the time, we'll tell you exactly what the production dept. does—as soon as six-foot-six JOHN VERPOORTEN gets around to explaining it to us. But, till then—

ITEM! GERRY CONWAY just returned from the West Coast where he was huddled with HARLAN ELLISON over some sort of a secret project for a few weeks. We can't clue you in just yet, but chances are if you don't stray too far from our mixed-up mags, you'll be bumping into it sooner or later.

ITEM! Everybody's being extra nice to JOHNNY ROMITA lately, hoping for a ride in the nifty new Mercedes he just latched onto. But, if you ask us, the guy simply has no sentiment. You'd think that anyone who's been drawing CAPTAIN AMERICA these days would buy a motorcycle if he wanted some wheels! Oh well . . .

ITEM! Did you happen to see SCHOLASTIC'S recent NewsTime edition which had an interesting article about SPIDER-MAN'S latest issues? We always enjoy poring thru the SCHOLASTIC magazines, to learn what's new and exciting in the youth-education field, and it was a real kick to bump into a feature dealing with ourselves!

ITEM! And of course you must have seen STAN LEE'S interview on ABC-TV's EYEWITNESS NEWS recently. To no one's surprise, he spent the time yakking it up about Marvel—and we loved every minute of it. Then there was that great mention that LOOK MAGAZINE gave us a few issues back. In their IN THE KNOW section, they said (in part) that the public should latch onto our Marvel mags because they're packed with today's steamy issues! And, as if that's not enough to swell our pointy little heads, the prestigious NEW YORK TIMES devoted a major portion of the first page of its second section not long ago to a penetrating article about Marvel's wondrous web-spinner! Now, all that remains is for the White House to declare a National Bullpen Day, and we'll have it made!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

This is it — the one soapbox I've really been looking forward to writing. This month, as all of comicdom must surely know, marks Spider-Man's 100th anniversary! Yep, it was just one hundred issues ago that the wall-crawling wonder made his first appearance as the star of his own magazine, although he was actually "born" one issue earlier in the final issue of AMAZING FANTASY #15 in 1962. Today, Spidey is undeniably the most popular single superhero character in all the world, and his fanatical fan following seems to grow stronger each day. Therefore, I want to publicly thank all those who've had a hand in Spidey's success — my publisher, Martin Goodman, who first gave me the go-ahead . . . Steve Ditko, Spidey's initial artist, who breathed life and lustre into the strip . . . Johnny Romita, who later took over the artistic reins and carried the web-spinner to greater peaks of popularity than ever before . . . John Buscema, who continued our hero's exploits when we needed him the most . . . Larry Lieber, who skillfully pencilled some of our never-to-be-forgotten Spider-Man annuals . . . Gil Kane, who is presently doing such a brilliant job of illustration and interpretation in one of Marvel's most truly difficult assignments . . . and, of course, to all the illustrious inkers who have never let ol' web-head down: Jim Mooney, Mike Esposito, Frank Giacoia, and Sal Buscema . . . as well as to Artie Simek and Sam Rosen, who've lettered so many of Spidey's epics that they've got web-fluid pouring from their pen points! And now that we've reached our 100th ish, I doff my hat to you, without whose support and enthusiasm it would all have been for naught. I thank you. Spidey thanks you. And Aunt May is baking a cake.

Excelsior!

Stan

WHILE THE CAT'S AWAY, THE BULLPEN WILL PLAY!

(Or: All They Need Is An Excuse Not To Write Those Awesomely Artful And Agonizingly Alliterative Apothegms!)

ROY'S ROSTRUM

That's right, friends; the title of this color-splashed little column says it all!

After scripting an even hundred issues of SPIDER-MAN—after writing even more issues of FANTASTIC FOUR, plus countless other epics starring Captain America and the rest of our award-winning costumed do-gooders—Smilin' STAN LEE has finally decided he needs a couple of weeks away from the typewriter and of a superhero script. So, for this month only (hopefully for us all), Our Leader will be confining his comic-mag chores to finishing up the current THOR saga—and to scribbling his usual comments and corrections with an editorial blue-pencil—while he spends his off-duty hours polishing off the screenplay for world-famous director ALAIN RESNAIS' first English-language film.

What's more, just to show the Bullpen he means business, Smiley's even delegated to Yours Truly the task of penning this month's Bulletin Page. And so, switching into third-person speech and high-gear speed, awaaaayy we go—

ITEM! It goes without saying that Stan's kookie cohorts were not overly slow in volunteering to pick up the plums he was shaking out. ROY THOMAS couldn't resist trying his hand at both SPIDEY and FANTASTIC FOUR (with a bit of help, natch, from JOHN BUSCEMA and GIL KANE). Meanwhile, Groovy GARY FRIEDRICH teamed up with JOHNNY ROMITA to finish off Captain America's tussle with the Grey Gargoyle—and GERRY CONWAY pitched in to supply the dialogue for GENE COLAN's dynamic pencils on the landmark first issue of THE TOMB OF DRACULA—a classic-in-the-making which Smiley had plotted and planned to script himself. In short, everybody this side of Honest Irv Forbush did his share, and if you don't dig the end result—well, it won't be because the whole blamed Bullpen wasn't in there trying, frantic one!

ITEM! In the meantime, just to show that neither Stan the Man nor Mighty Marvel is exactly standing still, this is the month that several of our much-lauded mags are going double-size to a full, fabulous 52 pages—for a mere 25c. Yes, you heard right—for a mere extra dime, you'll now be getting twice as much action—double the excitement—in comics such as CONAN THE BARBARIAN, ASTONISHING TALES, SGT. FURY, the spanking-new TOMB OF DRACULA, and a couple of our other titanic titles as well! As for what the future holds in store for the rest of our magniloquent mags—well, keep lookin' forward, pilgrim, 'cause that's where the future's coming from!

ITEM! And, talking about our turning some of our established titles into double-size blockbusters, that's just what we've done to MARVEL FEATURE #1—our newest quarterly book, which will present try-out stories for new series, new ideas. The first ish contains a novel-length epic co-starring the Hulk, Sub-Mariner, and Dr. Strange as—THE DEFENDERS! But that's not all! There's also an all-new tale of black magic featuring ol' Doc Strange in solo action for the first time in a couple of years—and if that double-header doesn't send you racing to your nearest newsstand, then we've gotta figure you as possessing a will of galvanized iron!

ITEM! While he's officially "resting," didja hear about Stan the Man speaking to capacity crowds at Boston University the other day? Price of admission to the huge auditorium was a copy of one of our comic-mags—all of which were then sent to entertain our guys in Viet Nam.

Right after that, he held forth on controversial ALEX BENNETT'S new WPLJ-FM talk-show. In dulcet, bell-like tones, the Smiling One gave a dramatic reading of one of his recent Marvel masterworks. Meanwhile, WBAI-FM, not to be outdone, has been dramatizing some of Stan's and Roy's Dr. Strange tours de force as well! Fact is, we wouldn't be too surprised if that kinda thing caught on. Can'tcha just see the ever-incredible Hulk sandwiched in between Rockin' Joe Cocker and the Creedance Clearwater Revival?

ITEM! We're proud as punch of our newest, youngest scripter, GERRY CONWAY. In between chronicling the adventures of Iron Man, DD, and Subby, the lad has authored a full-length science-fiction novel which debuts this month from Ace Books. It's called *The Midnight Dancers*—and it follows by just a few weeks the publication of one of his short stories in an all-original Ace anthology, *Universe One*, edited by s-f noteworthy TERRY CARR. Hmmm . . . add to this Smiley's film-scripting maiden voyage . . . plus Groovy Gary's recent paperback rock'n'roll encyclopedias . . . and maybe Rascally Roy (who's always vowed he has no desire to write anything except comic-books and blank checks) had better get to work in earnest on that top secret book project of his own! Talk about keeping up with the Joneses . . . and the Conways . . . to think nothing of the Lees!

ITEM! Here's a last-minute scoop! Didja know that MARIE SEVERIN took time off from penciling KULL THE CONQUEROR to design all the costumes for a play written and directed by Marvelite Maximus SHELDON FELDNER at Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts. Y'know, every time we stop and realize that the mirthful Miss Severin also designs and colors many of our covers—does artistic corrections on our mags—and has been known to color a 20-page story overnight to help us with a deadline—we begin to see what noted anthropologist ASHLEY MONTAGU was driving at in his classic *The Natural Superiority of Women*. Positively unnerving, that lass!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BULLPEN, BABY!

(Or, If We Knew You Were Comin', We'd Have Baked A Cake—And We Did!)

ITEM! This is it! Ten years to the month since the first immortal issue of FANTASTIC FOUR ushered in the Marvel Age of Madcap Madness—and have we got an anniversary surprise for you! 'Cause this is the month when each and every one of our award-winning mags goes king-size to 52 pages (that's counting the four-color covers, natch) for a mere 25¢. But then, if you're reading this batty Bullpen page in your own sanctum sanctorum, you already know that—so why don't we toss something extra that's news?

ITEM! Okay—here's some news: Virtually every one of our swingin' superhero titles will contain ALL-NEW Marvel masterworks of 33 (count 'em, 33) pages or more! It's like getting both parts of a continued story—all wrapped up between shiny covers, for just two bits. And believe us when we say we've spared no pain, no burning of the midnight oil, to assure you of a flock of first month fantasies that truly deserve this full-length treatment! This is no shuck—no come-on—we're tellin' it like it is, people!

ITEM! And, while we're playin' Honest Abe, we wanna go the whole route and tell you that a couple of our monthly mags will contain a minimal amount of reprint material—and why? Two of 'em—DAREDEVIL and IRON MAN—will be combining into one bombshell title starting next month, to make room for new ideas and new concepts. Because of this impending change, these two mags—as well as ASTONISHING TALES, which'll feature a 20-page Inhumans extravaganza—will showcase a carefully-chosen selection of classic superhero goodies penned in days past by some of our mightiest masters—Johnny Romita, Wild Bill Everett, Long John Severin, the whole magilla. But even this is merely a period of adjustment while we line up a flock of new features—and all the while, Marvel will be giving you more for your hard-earned dough in more mixed-up mags than ever before—with more ALL-NEW stories than anybody in the whole blamed comics industry! (Now, who was it started the rumor that merry Marvel was just out to make a fast buck by tossing endless reprints at a faithful fandom? You stuck by us when the going was roughest, stalwart one—and we're bettin' you're gonna dig the reward we've cooked up for ya!)

ITEM! Where there are winners, there must be victims. Because of the sudden increase in the volume of pages zooming out from 625 Madison Ave., our panic-stricken printer told us we'd have to shave off a title or two till he got it all together. So we've had to delay for the nonce our breathlessly-awaited DRACULA book, as well as MARVEL PREMIERE #1, which was to be the third of our new quarterly try-out comics. But they'll be zingin' at you on our Checklist page before you know it—and anyway, wait'll you see the frantic new feature we'll be tossin' your way next month in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #2. (Kinda whets the appetite, eh?)

ITEM! Sheesh! That's enough about our new 25¢ size, already! Did all you worldly sophisticates out there catch the great write-up that appeared recently in the Sunday Magazine Section of the far-famed *New York Times*? It sported a candid shot of STAN THE MAN in glorious black and white—and it tells ya just about everything you always wanted to know about Our Leader, but were giggling too hard to ask! (Footnote: Ever since it came out, everybody's been kidding Rascally ROY THOMAS about its mention of his "corn-silk hair." Ah well...such is the price of fame!)

ITEM! Speaking of the Loquacious Lee (and we just were—remember?), he tells us that when he lectured at Boston U. the other week, he was chauffeured around by his high-minded host, canny KENNY ROGOFF, in a Volkswagen Bus. Then, when he went to Harvard to give a talk, he was driven around in gregarious GORDON CROSS' Chevy Blazer, another truck-like vehicle. Next week he's heading for Yale to spread a little more Marvel erudition amongst the cognoscenti—and the whole blamed Bullpen (not to mention Stan himself) is wondering what will await him there. A Sherman tank, mayhap?

ITEM! Hey, here's a hasty note penned by batting BOB RALEIGH, JR., of radio station WPGC in our nation's capital: "On April Fool's Day (a day just made for disc jockeys), all the fellas here switched names. In addition, at the end of each newscast, instead of giving our real names, we could give anyone who came to mind, so we were ending with things like 'This is Peter Parker, WPGC News'...'This is Reed Richards 'This is Ben Grimm, WPGC Clobberin' News'...and like that." Good show, group—but we're still waitin' for the day when Walter Cronkite paints himself green and comes on like the ever-incredible Hulk!

ITEM! We're frankly so excited about our sudden switchover to full-scale 25¢ magazines with almost all new material, that we've let our enthusiasm crowd out mention of the latest, hijinx of our agonizin' artists and writers. But the personal chitchat'll be back next go-round, crew—and by then we hope you'll have let us know how you feel about our new size and format. Don't be shy about voicing your opinion, now; after about three decades of being under fire by a frantic fandom, ol' Smiley couldn't stand the shock!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hi, gang. I just wanna take a minute to dig out from under the work that's accumulated in the past few weeks to thank the great guys who were in there pinch-hitting while I took a short breather from my comic-mag chores. You've probably noticed Rascally Roy's rhapsodic rendition of Spider Man—Artful Archie's awesome artistry on the good ol' F.F.—Groovy Gary's gargantuan feat of penning Captain America—and Merry Gerry's been very very on the Mighty Thor (Sorry 'bout that!) Also, leave us not forget the Herculean labors of Jumbo Johnny Verpoorten, our pandemonious production chief, who manages to keep things rolling no matter what. To each and every one of these sagacious stalwarts, and all the rest of the Bullpen Assembled, I humbly tip my well-worn beanie cap in eternal gratitude. But, did they have to do such a great job while I was coppin' out? That's a heckuva way to make a fella feel secure!

Excelsior!

Stan

TAKE ME TO OUR LEADER!

(or, Look Homeward, Smiley!)

ITEM! This is it—the month that STAN (The Man) LEE returns to the fold as scripter of some of our mind-bending masterworks, after devoting these past few weeks to his editorial and screenwriting chores. Our Leader's tapering on with a 20-page action saga of Ragnarok in the current issue of THE MIGHTY THOR, and next month he vows to be back in full harness, authoring our friendly neighborhood web-spinner once again. Reception to the hard-working stalwarts who've filled in for him these past few issues has been emphatically enthusiastic, but what is Romeo without Juliet—Bonnie without Clyde—or Marvel without Stan Lee? 'Nuff said! (Aside to Mr. Thomas: Thanks for the kind words, Roy—but you still can't borrow my new electric pencil-sharpener! —S.L.)

ITEM! This one we hadda plug! As we go to press, we're considering changing the name of our new MARVEL SPOTLIGHT mag, but whatever its final appellation, we've got a hunch that its second issue—now on sale—is gonna be a definite smash! The new series heralded therein is called WEREWOLF BY NIGHT—and if that doesn't clue you in that Marvel's branching out into new and exciting areas, then we'd better drop our soft-sell approach. Fact is, this new series idea was so thrilling that half the Bullpen has been dying to have a hand in it. ROY THOMAS conceived and plotted the first tale (with the advice and consent of his better half, JEANIE), then turned it over to GERRY CONWAY, who's turned in one of his greatest, wildest scripts to date. As for the art—well, say hello to Madcap MIKE PLOOG (love that name!), who's making his comic-mag debut with this premier shocker, and who's destined to become one of Marvel's mightiest! In other words, we strongly advise you to pick up a copy of WEREWOLF BY NIGHT before it's sold out—and don't bother waiting till the full moon, okay?

ITEM! Uip! We know we promised you we'd print the full results of the first Annual Awards of the newly formed Academy of Comic-Book Arts, and that's just what we're gonna do—but we're so strapped for space we'll have to make it fast. First off, the award itself is called the "Shazam"—and all individual winners receive a handsome foot-high statuette of (you guessed it) a lightning bolt! Now to the awards themselves. In the dramatic division, kudos for the best artist of 1970 went to nefarious NEAL ADAMS—and if you wanna know why we're pleased as punch about that one, then just sneak a peek at the latest ish of a mag called THE AVENGERS. Scripting honors went to Marvel Alumnus DENNY O'NEIL, and DICK GIORDANO was tapped as best inker. Humorous awards in those three categories went to BOB OKSNER, CARL ("Uncle Scrooge") BARKS, and HENRY SCARPELLI, respectively—while JIM STERANKO won special recognition for his critically-praised history of comic-books as did WOODY GELMAN of Nostalgia Press, who's currently preparing a hardbound edition of CAPTAIN AMERICA's early epics. Best-mag award went to GREEN LANTERN and its story "No Evil Shall Escape My Sight," while JACK ADLER was named best colorist. Oh yes, and lest we forget, our own slammin' SAMMY ROSEN was voted the striking statuette for his lettering prowess. Rascally Roy accepted ACBA's first coveted Hall of Fame award on behalf of the immortal Golden-Age team of JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER, while we couldn't be happier that the premier "rookie-of-the-year" award went to bashful BARRY SMITH, largely on the basis of his widely-heralded CONAN. But, for much of the membership, the highpoint of the evening's festivities (held at New York's Statler-Hilton Hotel) was the presentation of a Special Award to Marvel's own STAN LEE, who had virtually founded ACBA all by his lonesome and who served as president during its first, crucial year! Right on, Stan!

ITEM! We could go on and on about the galaxy of guests who showed up to honor comicdom's talented titans, including satirist HARVEY KURTZMAN, director ALAIN RESNAIS, and many others—about the mad, mad monologue provided by comedian LENNY PRICE—about the special services rendered by NYC radio personality ALEX BENNETT as our genial master-of-ceremonies. But we've definitely run out of room—and time! Besides, it just occurred to us that we may have a few spare paragraphs to fill on this page the next time around, so—till then, peace!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hey man, want proof that comic-books are really coming into their own these days? Okay, grab onto this. I can still remember going to parties, a few years back, when people would ask what I did. When they'd hear the answer—a comic-book writer/editor—they'd react like I was from outer space, after which they'd gravitate over to some seemingly more prestigious playwright or screenwriter. However, tempus has a way of fugiting. Recently I attended some similar social fetes, anxiously awaiting a chance to yak about the new screenplay I've written. But what happened? You guessed it. Today, it's the comic-books that are in. Everyone's clamoring to hear about our swingin' superheroes. But you don't hear yours truly complaining. You and I have always known where comics were at, and now it's a kick to see that the rest of the world has finally caught up with us!

Excelsior!

Stan

SPECIAL NOTICE

Just as this issue went to press, we learned that MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL, the club which has been advertising in our pages for some months, has been officially disbanded. No more memberships or orders should be sent to MARVELMANIA.

Please address all inquiries to: MARVEL COMICS GROUP, DEPT. M 1 625 Madison Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10022. 2nd floor

APOLOGIA PRO VITA BULLPEN!

(Or: What Can We Say,Dear, After We Say We're Sorry!)

ITEM! Okay, so we owe you an explanation—and we're not gonna cop out on this one! A couple of months back, we announced that henceforth all of our titanic titles were going to be published as kingsize 25¢ mags—and that's just the way it was, for a month or so. However, once in a while you find out you've made a mistake—and there's nothing to be done for it but to admit it and to backtrack—to begin over again with a brand-new start. Frankly, that's just what happened to us! At the last minute we discovered that, for economic reasons far too complicated to go into (unless you're the type who gets his jollies browsing thru the Dow Jones averages), our own purposes—and therefore yours, in the long run—would be much better served by a regular-sized mag, priced at 20¢. After a long, drawn-out period of careful deliberation, we then proceeded to make this sudden shift in size and price virtually overnight—so swiftly, in fact, that last month's issues were able to make no mention whatever of the change, while most of our extra-length stories had to be cut in two and completed this time around. But this month, as we wrap up all loose ends and begin new storylines and new directions, we're back on the track again. Well, that's about all the explanation we can offer without getting bogged down in business details which would probably bore you as much as they do us. So bear with us, literature lover, while we're in the throes of change and challenge—and we think you'll find it worth the ride. 'Nuff said!

ITEM! Well, maybe not quite enough. The size-change hasn't affected *all* of our much-lauded mags. Our three new trial-balloon titles (MARVEL FEATURE, MARVEL SPOTLIGHT, and the forthcoming MARVEL PREMIERE) are still slated to be giant 48-pagers, with mostly new material. Also, all reports of the death of IRON MAN's own comic now prove to be somewhat exaggerated, as the bullet-headed Avenger is back on a bimonthly frequency, with plans to ease into monthly publication again as soon as possible. In addition to that, we've decided to turn both ASTONISHING TALES and AMAZING ADVENTURES into full-length epics starring, respectively, Ka-Zar and the incomparable Inhumans. And we've got a few other new features up our sleeves, as well. But what the hey—we've got to save something for future Bullpen pages, don't we? (Let's just say that one of our projected titles is destined to prove a real blockbuster—and leave you guessing at that!)

ITEM! Remember when we said that just about every pro writer we knew was a fan of our CONAN mag? Well, here's where we prove it—'cause the current issue of Marvel's most offbeat hero was plotted for Roy and Barry by none other than JOHN JAKES, famous fantasy author in his own right, and creator of the well-known Brak the Barbarian series. In addition, we might as well mention right now that English fantasist MICHAEL MOORCOCK has plotted the follow-up adventure, in which Conan teams up with Mike's own far-famed swashbuckler—Elric, master of the rune-sword Stormbringer! And, speaking of our battling barbarian, Rascally Roy has been floating on Cloud Nine (or maybe Ten) ever since the just-ended New York Comic Art Convention, at which the fabulous FRANK FRAZETTA—whose brilliant covers have contributed so much to Conan's recent paperback revival—praised Marvel's version as one of the best-written comic-mags he's ever read. That kinda talk may get you a free subscription yet, Mr. F.!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hey, remember how often I've said that comic books will one day be recognized as a serious literary medium? Well, take heart, believer; that day's coming closer. For proof, here's part of a letter we recently received from a teacher in North Carolina:

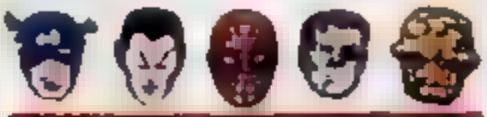
Dear Stan, I went to share with you and Marveldom Assembled a beautiful experience which a 13-year-old boy and I had. We used comics as the primary means to learn reading. His regular school had failed for six years to teach him even the basic reading skills, and I was failing for months as I tried all sorts of approaches. Then we picked up a SPIDER-MAN and took turns reading the different characters. Success! We kept using your comics and he greatly improved. My ideas on why this works are: Comics are exciting and interesting. The artwork is beautiful and the writing is dramatic. Learning to read was fun. There's real potential for comics in education. Unlike TV, which is characterized by short attention-span and requires very little viewer initiative, the linear, printed literature of the comic-book medium combines art and the printed word in a mutually-enhancing dialectic which requires effort and creativity by the reader. Keep up the good work. Your medium makes a great message. Onward! (signed)

Henry H. Walker

Many thanks, H. W. Y'know, yours is one of many such letters we've been receiving with ever-increasing frequency. And, for the clincher, guess where I'm headed the week of Oct. 18th? Wouldja believe Washington, D.C., addressing the prestigious American Studies Association during its session on popular culture! So, better read your Marvels quickly, gang—pretty soon you may not be able to buy 'em without showing your Phi Beta Kappa key!

Excelsior!

Stan



FANTASTIC FOUR #118: Diablo vs. the fabulous F.F.—in a battle that rocks the world! Plus—the ever-lovin' Thing in solo action! Don't miss it!

SPIDER-MAN #104: This one's got it all! Spider-Man vs. the monstrous Gog! Ka-Zar battles Kraven the Hunter! All this and J. Jonah too!

THOR #195: The Thunder God battles to the death against the legendary Troll Legions—for the Well at World's End! And then—Mangog returns!

AVENGERS #95: The wildest one yet! The Avengers tackle the Evil Inhumans—amid the Great Refuge itself! Guest starring Black Bolt—and Triton!

HULK #147: Androids replace our nation's leaders—for the deadliest purpose of all! The Hulk takes on everybody! Extra: an offbeat Greenskin shocker!

CAPT. AMERICA and THE FALCON #145: The name of this one is—"Sky Jacked!" Our star-spangled sentinel challenges the hordes of Hydra—in mid-air! And oh, that action!

SUB-MARINER #45: Namor and the Human Torch team up—or do they?—to face the vengeful Llyra and the man called Tiger Shark!

DAREDEVIL #83: The Black Widow is accused of murder—with Foggy Nelson for the prosecution! And if that isn't enough—here comes Mr. Hyde!

IRON MAN #45: Shock follows shock—as a wounded Iron Man stands alone against the nefarious Night Phantom! Bonus: an all-new Ant-Man spectacular!

CONAN THE BARBARIAN #13: The title says it all! "The Web of the Spider God!" Is it human—or monster—or thing from Beyond? A real shocker!

AMAZING ADVENTURES #10: Black Bolt—on the side of the murderous Magneto? It could happen—and all because of the Universe Machine!

MARVEL FEATURE #2: The Defenders are back—Sub-Mariner, the Hulk, and Dr. Strange—and just in time! For this is the hour when—the dread Dormammu returns!

SGT. FURY #94: "Who'll Stop the Rain?" The title might sound frivolous—but it's the most life-or-death Howler epic of all! We kid you not!

THE SENSUOUS BULLPEN

(Or: Everything You Always Wanted To Know About — No, We Did That One Already, Didn't We?)

ITEM! You know how we're always telling you that mighty Marvel is one of the hottest things going down on college campuses across the country? And maybe you thought we were just blowing our own horn and that maybe the whole thing added up to three freshmen with a couple of extra coppers between them? Well, how's this for proof: a pithy mini-article, reprinted in its entirety from the nation-wide Sunday supplement magazine Parade, dated August 1, 1971. And we quote:

"What are college students reading these days? The answer: comic-books.

"On campuses all over America the best sellers are THE MIGHTY AVENGERS, THE INCREDIBLE HULK, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE FANTASTIC FOUR, and others of that ilk.

"Although today's comic-books still feature super-heroes who survive by supernatural intervention, they have been transformed from the purely 'escape literature' of Flash Gordon to a relevant, new, and interesting art form. They even approach social commentary.

"On some campuses comic-books have become so popular that they run the risk of acceptance by the Establishment. At Princeton, for example, the Firestone Library boasts copies of SPIDER-MAN."

There you have it — the whole magilla, down to the last period and participle. Now who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Higher (and Hipper) Education?

ITEM! Two magnificent Marvel mags take their first bows this time around — and we've got a hunch you're gonna soon be clamoring for more, more, MORE of both of 'em. You just gotta know we're talking first of all about our long-awaited TOMB OF DRACULA series — with art by GENE (The Dean) COLAN and story by Merry GERRY CONWAY. (Or maybe we should write "Gerard F. Conway," like it says on all those fantasy paperbacks he's been penning) — And, if your awestruck eyes haven't already been riveted to the color-splashed new hero who appears elsewhere on this selfsame page, then we miss our guess — and our point! It's none other than the enigmatic entity once called only Him, but now and forever to be known as—WARLOCK! The much-heralded team of THOMAS, KANE, and ADKINS has rejoined forces on this one — and you might just dig the result, in the far-out new series in our first big issue of MARVEL PREMIERE, now on sale! End of two-for-one plug!

MARVELOUS MINI-ITEMS! Did|a hear about the awesome art program for underprivileged kids, held in recent weeks at New York's famous Guggenheim Museum? JOHN ROMITA, MARIE SEVERIN, HERB TRIMPE, and other Bullpen luminaries were the hit of the long hot summer! . . . Hey, guess what! STAN (The Man) LEE who returns at last this month to scripting Spidey-thrillers again, startled everybody by suddenly shaving off his beard the other day! We won't say he looks all that different with just a mustache — but the first day he showed up clean-shaven for work, the security guard wouldn't let him in the door without an I.D.! . . . Affable AL KURZROK, sometime Sgt. Fury scripter and fulltime production plodder, just got back from a wild weekend in voodoo-haunted Haiti. Hope you had a ball, A. K. — but why'd you just shave off the beard on that doll with all the hatpins in it? . . . Now that bashful BARRY SMITH is back in the States, he's finally found the time to take a vacation trip . . . back to Merrie Olde England! Or, as Captain America might've said in the long-distant past: "What the — ?"

See you next time thru, crew!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Well, gang, by now you must all be as thoroughly confused about the cover price of our mixed-up little mags as we are. As you know, we recently went from 15¢ per ish to 25¢, and then, almost before the ink was dry, zingo — we zeroed-in on a figure of 20¢ — and that's where it's at right now. Anyway, just so you don't think these monumental decisions are made by the toss of a coin, I figured it's time for one of our usual unabashedly obtuse explanations. Actually, the Bullpen and I comprise the ever-lovin' ed.torial department of munificent ol' Marvel. We editors, artists, writers, letterers, etc., keep busy trying to create the kind of comics which connoisseurs will cry for. However, in another part of our vast, globe-girding organization is the mysterious, virtually unmentionable business department. Deep within the hidden recesses of some closely-guarded inglenook it is they who must wrestle with such earth-shattering decisions as how much to charge for our books, and how many keys to the washroom may be distributed amongst our loyal, laughable, lamentable little staff. It is they who dangle the dollars while we dally and dawdle among the drawing boards. But harken ye now to this passionate pledge, O compassionate one — no matter what the price, no matter what yon chancellors of the exchequer in their wisdom may decree, we vow to give thee always far more than thy money's worth in story, art, and superhuman self-sacrifice. For, no matter how the caliphs may divide the bread, we'll give you better comics 'cause we care about your head!

Excelsior!

Stan

MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Now on Sale

FANTASTIC FOUR #119: Torch and the Thing battle alongside the mysterious Black Panther — for a secret that may destroy the world! Plus a mystery super-villain!

SPIDER-MAN #105: The coming of — The Spider Slayer! And if that doesn't clue you in that our wondrous wall crawler is in deadly danger — nothing will!

THOR #196: The quest for the Well at the Edge of the World! The fury of Karkang the Keeper! And then, before your eyes — Asgard falls! Pageantry with a punch!

AVENGERS #96: The startling wind-up to the Kree-Skrull War! A zillion surprise superheroes! And — Rick Jones conquers the universe! The wildest one yet!

HULK #148: At last! Our mountainous man-monster finds Jarella—the girl from the emerald atom! But what's the difference, for — "Tomorrow — the Sun Dies!"

CAPT. AMERICA and THE FALCON #146: "Mission: Stop the Femme Force!" And that's just what will happen — unless Cap learns the identity of the Supreme Hydra! Excitement plus!

DAREDEVIL #84: The night of the Assassin! The cataclysmic climax, as ol' Hornhead fights an indestructible foe! And introducing the creature called — [redacted]

SUB-MARINER #46: Namor's quest finally ends — as he finds his long-lost father! But then, tragedy strikes — not to mention the sensational Sting-Ray!

ASTONISHING TALES #10: War — in the savage land at the bottom of the world! Ka-Zar and Zabu fight as never before! This one is action all the way, people!

SGT. FURY #95: "Seven Doomed Men!" One of the earliest, most thrilling combat classics of all — as the Howlers take on the whole blamed Nazi army!

TOMB OF DRACULA #1: You've waited a long time for it — you've demanded it — and here it is! The most famous, most fearful vampire of all! Yes — Count Dracula lives!

MARVEL PREMIERE #1: This is it! The most mind-staggering new feature of all! The Man-Beast! The High Evolutionary! And starring — Him! Don't miss "The Power of — Warlock!"

MIGHTY MARVEL IS BACK ON THE TRACK!

(Or: PLAY IT AGAIN, STAN!)

ITEM! Marvel is makin' it big all over again! The longest, grooviest article ever on the House of Ideas appeared in the September 16, 1971, ish of *Rolling Stone*. (And, just in case you've been toiling about in the Kree Galaxy for the past several years, we might add that *Rolling Stone* is the best-known bi-weekly rock-music newspaper in the ever-lovin' world!) The whole magilla was penned by Riotous ROBIN GREEN, who used to be our own Gal Friday before she wandered westward in search of fame, fortune, and a deeper suntan, and it's chock full of querulous quotes by STAN, MARIE, HERB, ROY, and just about everybody in the Bullpen. We could quote from it all day and into the night, but we figure it pretty much spoke for itself. Suffice it to say that the article generated so much interest that a couple of other writers are already working on follow-up features for the paper. Thanks again, Rob, for reminding one and all that mighty Marvel is still where it's at!

ITEM! Remember last month, when TOMB OF DRACULA and WARLOCK burst like bombshells upon an incredulous fandom? Well, just to prove we're not resting on our laurels, we've got no less than three startling new features to toss at you this time! First and foremost, for those myriad minions who've been crying for more of the ever-amazing Spider-Man, we're introducing a brand-new mag called MARVEL TEAM-UPS, which co-stars the ol' wall-crawler and none other than the Human Torch — and we're kicking off the series with an offbeat Christmas mini-saga, to boot! Next, we strongly suggest you pick up the latest issue of AMAZING ADVENTURES, where you'll shake hands (if you really wanna) with none other than — the Beast, one of the extraordinary X-Men. But, is this truly the Hank McCoy of recent memory, or another, far more fearful creature of the night? This one you've gotta see to believe! And, for those stalwarts who've heralded CONAN THE BARBARIAN as the greatest thing going, we've come up with a spectacular new series called "Warrior of Mars," which debuts in the current ish of CREATURES ON THE LOOSE — where else? But, if you think these are something, wait'll you dig a couple of wondrous winners we'll be tossing your way in the wee small hours of 1972! Keep facin' front, pilgrim — 'cause this is the year when miraculous Marvel really gets it together!

MARVELOUS MINI-ITEMS! Did everybody in the NYC-area catch Jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA the other a.m., rapping on LARRY BEAR'S radio talk-show on station WABC? Johnny shared billing with three syndicated cartoonists of note — but all the eager souls who telephoned the studio wanted to ask about was Marvel, Marvel, MARVEL . . . And didja see Happy HERBIE TRIMPE'S hilarious comic feature in a recent ish of *Esquire*? The heroine was a takeoff on famous writer and women's-liberationist GLORIA STEINHEM, but we still kinda think she bore a suspicious resemblance to the Valkyrie. In HULK #142. Maybe Herb'll 'fess up, when he gets back from his vacation in Europe, huh? . . . If any of you have trouble recognizing some of the color splashed superheroes who make a surprise appearance in this month's AVENGERS ish, don't sweat it. Some of 'em haven't been in a Marvel (or any other) mag in over thirty years! Could be we're showing our age? As a Pig named Porky (and a Forbush named Irving) used to say: "That's all, folks!"

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hi, culture-lovers! This month I'm gonna try to answer the question which is asked of us more than any other. It's the plaintive, passionate poser, "How do I break into the comic-book biz?" Of course, the easiest answer is "Why would you want to?", but I won't cop out that easily. (Mainly because I've still gotta fill this furshlugginer column!) So, those of you determined to become comic-book artists, face front! First of all, remember that it's one of the toughest fields to enter, because there's a limit to the mags we can publish and we've usually got more than enough artists to go around. So no matter how good you are — even if Michelangelo himself was up for grabs — there'd probably be a wait of months, even years before a strip became available. Also, you must be as good or better than the whizzes who are already drawing your favorite strips; otherwise we couldn't inflict you on the quality-oriented ranks of Marveldom Assembled. So you ask, "Then how does a beginner get experience?" Only by studying art on your own, by learning composition, anatomy, perspective, etc., until your work is of professional caliber. Obviously, we can only hire pros — artists who've already made their mark in the field of advertising, book illustration, etc. Okay then, once you've made it in some other field of art — once you've proven yourself as a professional — here's the final and most difficult step. Make up a couple of sample pages — drawn in pencil only — using whichever of our characters you prefer, but involving them in an original situation. If you copy any of our own drawings, your samples will be meaningless. We must see how you'd handle a new situation. Use sheets of 10" x 13" 2-ply illustration paper and send us photostats — not the originals 'cause we can't be responsible for any loss. If your work is overwhelming, and if a strip is ever available, and if none of our regular artists is free to handle it, you'll eventually hear from us. And if you think that's tough, wait'll you see what it takes to be a writer, coming up in a future Soapbox!

Excelsior!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
Now On Sale!

FANTASTIC FOUR #120: They call their mysterious new foe — the Air-Walker! Yet, wait'll you find out who he *really* is! A shocker!

SPIDER-MAN #106: The web-spinner battles to the finish with the Spider Slayer! But — whose finish? This one's a must!

THOR #196: Who could possibly smash Thor, Odin, and all the hosts of Asgard? No one but — Mangog! With a climax that'll stun you!

AVENGERS #97: At last! The cataclysmic conclusion of the Kree-Skrull War! Plus a zillion Marvel-ous guest stars!

HULK #149: They call him — The Inheritor! And what he claims as his birthright is nothing less than — this planet earth!

CAPT. AMERICA and THE FALCON #147: The Supreme Hydra unmasked! A mystery super-villain revealed! An action bonanza!

DAREDEVIL #84: Mile-high madness, as the Man Without Fear battles the power-packed Gladiator — in the deadly skies!

SUB-MARINER #47: Doctor Doom! Modok! The calamitous Cosmic Cube! And Namor — with his memory gone! Suspense plus!

IRON MAN #45: Crisis on campus, as angry students face an Avenger who dares not strike back! And that's just for openers!

CONAN #14: "A Sword Called Stormbringer!" The black-maned barbarian battles the warrior-king Elric — and the hordes of Hell!

AMAZING ADVENTURES #11: Presenting the block-busting Beast, in a series all his own! But, this is a new Beast — a new kind of excitement!

SGT. FURY #96: Nick Fury on the threshhold of death! Dum Dum Dugan leads the Howlers into battle! This is the big one!

CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #16: In the timeless tradition of Edgar Rice Burroughs and Robert E. Howard! It's "Gulliver Jones — Warrior of Mars!"

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #3: A teenager by day — a "Werewolf By Night!" Yet, can even a man-beast survive against the steel claw of — Kraig?

MORE MESSAGES, MEMOS, AND MEMORANDA FROM YOUR MIXED-UP MARVEL MINIONS!

ITEM! Ordinarily, we don't like to give out Mysterious Hints about upcoming new Marvel titles! This time, though, we've gotta make an exception — 'cause the next month or so will see the dazzling debut of a wondrous new mag which we feel is gonna set all of fandom on its ear! It's called HERO FOR HIRE, and we don't want to go into detail about it now — we'd rather let you surmise and speculate for a while — but from where we sit, we figure it might just become one of the mightiest Marvel winners of all! 'Nuff said — for now!

ITEM! This might be just the spot to mention that Marvel's moonstruck romance mags, MY LOVE and OUR LOVE STORY, are featuring all-new art and stories again! All right, so that doesn't exactly make most of you superhero buffs dance for joy — but they feature some mind-boggling artwork by talented titans like COLAN, ROMITA, BUSCEMA, and others. Not to mention the fact that it might just grab ya to see what Smilin' STAN, Merry GERRY, and Groovy GARY (plus a couple of lasses like gal Friday HOLLI RESNICOFF and Roy's ever-lovin wife JEANIE THOMAS) can do with the hearts-and-flowers bit. Give 'em a try, why dontcha? What can it hurt?

ITEM! Y'know, it just occurred to us that we haven't mentioned ACBA for a few issues — and that it's high time to remedy the situation! In case anybody's forgotten, ACBA stands for the Academy of Comic Book Arts, the recently-formed professional organization of comic-book artists, writers, and associates. Well, the group is well into its second year already, and we just thought we'd clue you in as to who its hard-working officers are this time around. First off, there's DICK GIORDANO, president — aided and abetted by NEAL ADAMS, boy veep. MIMI GOLD and SAL AMENDOLA were tapped to serve as treasurer and secretary, respectively — and respectfully. And, last but not least (the way they tell it, anyway), there's a Board of Governors composed of ARCHIE GOODWIN, GIL KANE, ROY THOMAS, JOHN ROMITA, and Archie Comics staffer VICTOR GORELIK. Incidentally, ACBA's just starting its big membership drive for 1972, and if you're interested in becoming a Supporting Member, just contact 'em at this address: ACADEMY OF COMIC BOOK ARTS, 509 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017. S.M.'s will receive a nifty new membership card, a sketchbook featuring all-new artwork done by fandom's favorites, and the more-or-less-monthly ACBA Newsletter. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for full details, okay?

MARVELOUS MINI-ITEMS! HERB TRIMPE just returned from a spectacular sojourn at various spas in Europe, where, among other things, he met a gal who used to be a secretary to the late lamented Beatles! Okay, Herb, so clue us in, huh — what's Ringo Starr really like?... Everybody notice on this month's checklist that Kull the Conqueror is back by popular demand, in the pages of the current ish of MONSTERS ON THE PROWL? At miraculous Marvel, old heroes never die — they just lie low for a while and then come on as strong as ever!... Hey, and how's *this* little bombshell for a closer: Big JOHN BUSCEMA and a peerless partner have opened up a new steakhouse called the Sunset Inn 'way out in Sayville, Long Island, N.Y. We hear the food is fit for a king — or even all-father Odin himself. Okay, B.J., we gave you a plug — now we'll take those free steaks done medium rare, please!... Peace, people.

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

These brief, random thoughts are being written just a short time after the Attica State Prison tragedy. Now I've no intention of imposing my own opinions upon you about which side, which party or parties might have been right or wrong. Instead, I'd like to discuss the theory of "right or wrong" itself. Is it possible that too much harm, too much injustice has been caused in the name of "right" — in the pursuit of combating "wrong?" In every human conflict, isn't each disputant completely convinced that his particular cause is wholly "right" while the opposing viewpoint is totally "wrong"? And, armed with the sense of being "in the right," don't we dogmatically attempt to impose our own will upon those who hold different convictions? But, what if we had no such hang-ups about right and wrong? What if we remember that what's right for here may be wrong for there? In fact, what's right for you may be wrong for me — and what's right for today may be wrong for some other time. "Right" to a liberal is politically "wrong" to a conservative, just as "right" to a labor leader can be "wrong" to an industrialist, or "right" to a child can seem "wrong" to a parent. Yet, I wonder what life would be like if we weren't so preoccupied with proving ourselves right and the other guy wrong. I wonder if we might not find the peace, the understanding we all seek by striving to relate to each other, to sympathize with each other's problems, to reach out to those who may differ from ourselves and to realize that they too may be "right" in their own way, from their own point of reference. I wonder — mightn't it be worth a try?

Excelsior!

Stan

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Now On Sale!

FANTASTIC FOUR #121: Gabriel has blown his horn! The earth faces total destruction! The F.F. battles as never before! And then — but that you've gotta see for yourself!

SPIDER-MAN #107: The wrap-up of the Spider-Slayer Saga! The web-spinner smashes thru — to one of his greatest victories! But his triumph is marred — as tragedy overtakes Flash Thompson!

THOR #198: The Death of Odin! And then, as Asgard reels, re-enter Tana Nile — and the sinister Colonizers! An epic of unparalleled greatness!

AVENGERS #98: Here come — the Warhawks. And wait'll you learn the identity of their mysterious leader! Plus — two long-lost Avengers return to the fold!

HULK #150: The return of the man called — Havok! The magnetic might of Lorna Dane! Plus — ol' Greenskin on a rampage! It's action, cover to cover!

CAPTAIN AMERICA and THE FALCON #148. The Red Skull! The Schemer! The Kingpin! And a newly-awakened Sleeper! This one's got it all!

DAREDEVIL #85: Remember the ominous Ox? Well, he's back — and so is the breathtaking Black Widow! But they'd better hurry — 'cause DD's leaving New York!

SUB-MARINER #48: Namor — Dr. Doom — and murderous Modok makes three! The quest for the Cosmic Cube builds to a mind-staggering climax! A shocker!

IRON MAN #46: Iron Man — implicated in murder! The battle with the block-busting Guardsman! And then — the death of a superhero! Don't miss this one!

ASTONISHING TALES #11: At last! The full, never-before-revealed origin of Ka-Zar and Zabu! Plus the wildest jungle battle ever, with — Mangor!

SGT. FURY #97: This is it! The shell-shocked wind-up of the wildest Howler epic of all! But — will Nick Fury live long enough to see it?

MONSTERS ON THE PROWL #16: The return of King Kull! Introducing the sorcerous menace of — Thuisa Doom! Plus more monster-pieces to amaze you!

MARVEL FEATURE #3: What kind of menace can take on Sub-Mariner, Dr. Strange, and the Incredible Hulk? Wait and see, pilgrim — when stalks the Titan!

NIFTY NOTES, NOSTALGIC NUANCES, AND NARCISSISTIC NAME-DROPPING, FEATURING NON-TOXIC NEWS OF THE NATION'S MOST NOTORIOUS NON-ENTITIES!

ITEM! 'Twould appear that comic-mags in general — and mixed-up Marvel in particular — are on the map at last! The famous NEW YORK CULTURAL CENTER recently held a critically-acclaimed exhibition of comic art — and guess which company's recent masterworks held down a strategic spot therein! We'll give you a hint: It wasn't Abercrombie and Fitch! Meanwhile, for those of you who missed the intellectual goings-on, Boston Book & Art Publishers has just issued a beautiful hardcover tome entitled *75 Years of the Comics* as a companion volume to the exhibit. And, just in case you wanna have some fun while you're waiting to see a copy, why not try guessing which pulsating pages of F.F. and X-MEN were chosen for repro in the tract! Have fun, pilgrim!

ITEM! Hello to Stalwart STEVE ENGLEHART, who's just joined our harried little staff, where he'll be doing proofreading, penciling, inking, scripting — and probably lettering, if somebody will lend him a spelling-book! Welcome aboard, Steve — may your inkwell never run dry!

MARVELOUS MINI-ITEMS! We give up! Due to a mountain (no lie!) of wildly favorable mail, we're unleashing the Indian avenger RED WOLF this month in his own many-splendored mag — with art once more by SYD (The Kid) SHORES! And if you think that special issue of MARVEL SPOTLIGHT was something — wait'll you see how Syd moves out in this one! • Jumbo JOHN VERPOORTEN, our jet-set production chief, just got back in harness after a well-earned rest in old California. (Some rest! From the postcards we got, he must've hit every tourist spa in the whole sun-splashed state!) Oh yes, and here's an aside to all you Marvel old-timers: Fabulous FLO STEINBERG says hi! • Hey, classic-counter, didja notice that our newest fulltime scripter, GERRY CONWAY, authored six full comic-mags this go-round? Welcome aboard, Ger — you're now as inundated with work and wonderment as even STAN and ROY! • Our peerless publisher, Merry MARTY GOODMAN, has been so happy about the reception you frantic ones have given our latest issues that he tossed an impromptu party for the whole blamed Bullpen at one of NYC's swingin'est esteries! Best part of the whole evening was that everybody had such a great time — nobody made a speech! • Remember our telling you about the annual Halloween Parade held in Rutland, Vermont? Well, this year there were so many Marvel heroes in attendance that they took up two floats, no less! Biggest kick for Rascally ROY THOMAS, who was garbed as our friendly neighborhood wall-crawler, was seeing one excited fan dressed up as a certain red-and-blue-clad superstar published by our Distinguished Competition — but jumping up and down ecstatically, yelling "SPIDER-MAN! SPIDER-MAN!" • That's it, people!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Let's try something different this month. Instead of me laying it on you with the usual panoply of punctilious phrases, we'll follow the old adage of a single picture being worth a thousand words — and if this picture doesn't fill the bill, may Forbush forgive me!

His name is LUKE CAGE — and being a HERO FOR HIRE is his thing! We've put it all together for you in the first sensational ish of our newest superhero mag, on sale right about now. I don't want you to think I'm hitting you with a lot of hard-sell, but as one Believer to another, even if it means foregoing Millie the Model this month, don't dare miss LUKE CAGE, HERO FOR HIRE! He's really somethin' else!

Excelsior!

Stan

MIGHTY MARVEL IS ON THE *MOVE* AGAIN!!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

See another

FANTASTIC FOUR #122: The wondrous wind-up! The Silver Surfer teams up with the F.F.! But how long can even they survive against the combined power of Gabriel — and Galactus?

SPIDER-MAN #108: Spidey fights his greatest battle — to save Flash Thompson from a sinister Death-Cult! And then — but see for yourself, pilgrim!

THOR #199: The legions of Pluto battle the hordes of Hela — for the soul of all-father Odin! And Thor must choose between them! Suspense without equal!

AVENGERS #99: Hawkeye returns to the fold! Hercules in torment! This one paves the way for perhaps the greatest hundredth issue of all!

HULK #151: They call it — the Crawling Unknown! And it's the one thing so loathsome — so mind-shattering — that even ol' Greenskin can't stop it!

CAPTAIN AMERICA and THE FALCON #149: Cap's long-awaited rematch with the blockbusting Batroc! And wait'll you learn the Leaper's new secret identity!

DAREDEVIL #87: DD and the Widow hit San Francisco! And nobody's minding the welcome wagon but — Electro! A titanic turning-point ish!

SUB-MARINER #49: This is it! The fearful finale to the three-way war between Namor, Modok, and a desperate Dr. Doom! More we gotta tell ya?

IRON MAN #46: The golden Avenger — implicated in murder! The attack of the superhero called the Guardsman! And then — death deals a hand! Don't miss it!

AMAZING ADVENTURES #12: The Beast is back — and Iron Man's after him! Plus — more secrets behind the mutant that walks like a man — and looks like a monster!

CONAN THE BARBARIAN #15: Conan and Elric — alone against the slashing swords of Chaos! Barry's artwork alone is worth the bread — and oh, that Moorcock/Thomas story!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #2: Spidey and the ever-torrid Human Torch mix it up again, when our way-out web-spinner joins — the Frightful Four! Shock city!

TOMB OF DRACULA #2: London! Midnight! Count Dracula stalks the city, in search of his purloined coffin — and death waits for any who stand in his way!

MARVEL PREMIERE #2: The man-god called Warlock — in cataclysmic combat with Rhodan and the Hounds of Halica! Names grab ya? So will the story, believe!

CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #17: Gulliver Jones, Warrior of Mars — facing the Spider-Swarm at the end of the River of Death! Far-out fantasy at its finest!

SGT. FURY #98: You asked for it — you demanded it — and now you've got it! Nick Fury's battlin' buddy leads his own attack squad — "Dum Dum's Deadly Dozen!"

RED WOLF #1: The masked avenger of the plains is back — with a vengeance! Whether you crave western action — or superhero thrills — you can dig it!

HERO FOR HIRE #1: This month's Soapbox says it all! But you'll say even more, after you step up and shake hands with — Luke Cage!

SENSATIONAL SECRETS AND INCREDIBLE INSIDE INFO, GUILELESSLY GUARANTEED TO AVAIL YOU NAUGHT!

ITEM: Here's the scoop of the year! This pungent paragraph is being penned a day before Xmas, 1971. But, by the time you read it, Jan. 5th, '72,will have come and gone. What's the big deal about Jan. 5th? Nothing much, except — that's the date that New York's world-famous Carnegie Hall presents "A MARVEL-OUS EVENING WITH STAN LEE"! Yep, it's for real! On Jan. 5th we're slated to bring the whole blushin' Bullpen before the footlights in a star-studded show paying homage to our Marvel-ous mixed-up menage of comix and their cavortin' creators! (It's spooky how we're writing about it in the future tense, but it'll be past history by the time you get to read this!) Anyway, by the time we write next issue's Bullpen Bulletin, our super-production at Carnegie Hall will be behind us, so we'll be able to tell you everything that happened — and, knowing us, you can be sure we will! — That is, if we're not busy rehearsing for a command performance at the Palladium by then!

ITEM! Speaking of things you flame-keepers are always asking us, this seems like as good a time as any to clue you in as to the exact personnel of Mighty Marvel's editorial staff. STAN'S the Editor and Art Director, natch — aided and abetted (whatever that means) by Rascally ROY THOMAS, who basks in the title of Associate Editor. What with all the new Marvel madness we've got planned, though, we've had to line up a handful of stalwarts to help Stan, Roy, and Production Manager JOHN VERPOORTEN keep things moving along, so we've now got a trio of awesome Assistant Editors as well. First, there's Sterling STEVE ENGLEHART, whom you read about last ish; next, there's Merry GERRY CONWAY, who helps out as needed in addition to his scripting chores; and last but not least, there's the newest addition to our harried little staff, Melancholy MIKE FRIEDRICH. Mike's a recent college grad from Santa Clara, California, but don't worry about the Melancholy One being too young . . . nothing can age a guy like a stint in the batty Bullpen.

ITEM! Mike's first task for Marvel, by the way, was to pen a bunch of all-new western epics for our great OUTLAW KID mag. If you wanna see what might've happened to the ever-amazing Spider-Man if he'd been born about a century earlier — well, just pick up O.K. and see what we mean, huh? Artwork's by Darlin' DICK AYERS, who's also been laboring with GARY (No Relation) FRIEDRICH on the sizzling first issue of a new war-mag called COMBAT KELLY AND THE DEADLY DOZEN — now on sale, natch! All right, pilgrim — got everything straight now? Good — 'cause next month we'll add another new title or two to our killin' lineup — and then we'll *really* start moving!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hey, remember all the immodest expressions we bombarded you with in the early days when Marvel was just a'borning? Our first and best-known phrase was, of course, "The Marvel Age of Comics," after which we slyly suggested that you always say "Make Mine Marvel!" when ordering anything from a comic-book to an aardvark. Then, before you had a chance to duck, we whumped you with "Marvel's On The Move Again!" A lot of you used to write to us, saying "Okay, okay, we know we're on the move again, but where in the name of Aunt Petunia are we going?" We'd answer that we have a zillion ideas for new mags and new heroes, but we never seemed to have enough time, or a large enough staff to grind 'em out. And we suspect a lot of you thought we were putting you on. But now it's a different ball game! We've been working like mad to corral some of the best new artists and writers to come down the pike — and we've finally swung it! That means we're about to take all those zingy ideas we've been keeping the lid on and bring them to life for you at last! So hang loose, heroes, and watch our smoke! Marvel's set to bust loose now, and that means the wondrous world of fantasy won't ever be the same!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Lots of special issues this time, people! Roy and Bashful BARRY SMITH really went all-out on AVENGERS #100, which features every Marvel hero who's ever been an Avenger — and that's a long, long list! • Here's a nostalgic note: Wild BILL EVERETT, who created the SUB-MARINER many moons ago, has both written and drawn the fabulous 50th issue of Namor's own mag, now on sale! • Even ol' Stan got into the act, writing most of the current 200th ish of THOR. Sure, we know the first 82 issues were named JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY and didn't really feature our awesome Thunder God — but an anniversary is an anniversary! • Speaking of which, we hear that Larrupin' LARRY LIEBER has something special planned for the now-on-sale 100th issue of our best-selling RAWHIDE KID mag — but he never got around to telling us what it is! Find out for yourself, troops!

ITEM! Due to a last-minute delay or two, our new bombshell LUKE CAGE, HERO FOR HIRE is on sale this time around instead of last month. Get it, hear?

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Now on Sale! -

FANTASTIC FOUR #123: Galactus! The Silver Surfer! The fabulous F.F.! All cavorting and clashing in perhaps the greatest battle-issue yet! A feast for the mind and eye!

SPIDER-MAN #109: Flash Thompson — about to be sacrificed by a secret Death Cult! Spidey helpless to save him! And then — enter Doctor Strange!

THOR #200: The Day of Ragnarok — as you've never seen it before! What can even the gods do — when the end of the universe is at hand?

AVENGERS #100: The tale you thought you'd never see! The Avengers attack Olympus — and vice versa! With the biggest batch of superheroes ever!

HULK #152: Ol' Greenskin — captured and held for trial! And the lawyer's name is — Matt Murdock! Don't miss — "Who Will Judge the Hulk?"

CAPT. AMERICA and THE FALCON #150: The Stranger strikes from space! But so does the monster known as — Jakar! And earth's caught in the middle!

DAREDEVIL #88: Killgrave, the Purple Man, is back — and DD may never be the same again — even if he lives! Plus — the Black Widow's secret past!

SUB-MARINER #50: The scourge of the seas returns to his abandoned Antarctic home — to find it deserted no longer! And then — Prince Byrrah!

IRON MAN #47: "Shall Iron Man Live?" That's the dreaded question the golden Avenger must ask himself — as he relives anew his awesome origin!

ASTONISHING TALES #12: "Terror in the Everglades!" Perhaps the greatest Ka-Zar saga of all, as the jungle lord comes face to face with — the Man-Thing!

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #4: Our Werewolf By Night — on the Island of the Damned! And if you wanna know why it's damned just ask the man called Blackgar!

HERO FOR HIRE #1: A wee bit late — but well worth the wait! Get in on the ground floor on this one, pilgrim! It's gonna be big!

COMBAT KELLY AND THE DEADLY DOZEN #1: The wildest, woolliest gang of G.I.'s this side of the hard-hitting Howlers! To believe it — see it!

SGT. FURY #99: Nick Fury's heroes — trapped in the rugged hills of Greece! And for them to live — Europe's greatest patriot must die!

Not to mention these winners:
RAWHIDE KID #100 — OUTLAW KID #10 — MONSTERS ON THE PROWL #17 — MARVEL TALES #35 — FEAR #8 — WESTERN KID #4 — MARVEL TRIPLE ACTION #3 — X-MEN #76 — HARVEY #3 — OUR LOVE STORY #17 — LI'L KIDS #6 — MILLIE THE MODEL #196.

INCREDIBLE, INEDIBLE INFO TO STUN YOUR SIX SENSES AND SOOTHE YOUR SECRET SOUL!

ITEM! January 5, 1972! Mark that date in your memory-book, faithful one — 'cause that's the night the batty Bullpen got it all together at Carnegie Hall, in the hectic heart of New York City! As we told you last month, the whole magilla was called "A MARVEL-OUS EVENING WITH STAN LEE"— and it was a way-out compendium of music, magic, and madcap Marvel mayhem! Smilin' STAN himself was Master of Ceremonies — presiding over the frantic goings-on and reading dynamic dialogue from some of his greatest masterpieces, while images of mighty Marvel superheroes flitted across a giant movie-screen. A trio of our titanic artists got into the act, too, as Jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA, Happy HERB TRIMPE, and Big JOHN BUSCEMA did sensational sketches of Captain America, ol' Greenskin, and Thor — which in turn were projected onto that selfsame screen. (There was a passel of our cavortin' characters in actual attendance, too, including Spidey, Daredevil, Doc Doom, and even J. Jonah Jameson himself!) The standing-room-only crowd exploded with applause, also, at the roster of famous names who had gathered to pay homage to the madness that is Marvel: World-famous film director ALAIN RESNAIS translated a few of the Silver Surfer's most awe-inspiring soliloquies into his native French; and there were also a few pungent paragraphs about our heroes which were intoned by radio personalities ALEX BENNETT and EARL DOUD, by actors RENE AUBERJONOIS and CHUCK McCANN (you've seen the latter a zillion times as the "Hi Guy" neighbor on the other side of the medicine cabinet in those Right Guard commercials), and neo-journalist TOM WOLFE, resplendent in red, white, and blue as he read about — you guessed it — Captain America. As for the music we mentioned above, most of it was provided by the far-famed CHICO HAMILTON PLAYERS — but some more Marvel madmen got into the act, too, as Hectic HERBIE and Bashful BARRY SMITH plunked a couple of wild electric guitars while Rascally ROY THOMAS belted out a rousin' rocker or two! Then, for the grand finale, just about everybody in the whole blamed Bullpen crowded onto stage to sing the Merry Marvel Marching Society theme-song — while, not to be outdone, dozens of cheering fans rushed onstage as well, and the show closed amid a revel of handshaking and autograph-signing all 'round. And that was that! All in all, it was a wildly successful evening — and not necessarily the last of its kind, either! And, if there were a few bleary eyes and sore throats among the Bullpenners come the morning of the 6th — well, that's show biz, people!

MARVEL-OUS MINI-ITEMS: We've just barely got room to tell you about a heaping handful of surprise goodies coming your way this month — so here goes — • DR. STRANGE is back! Ol' STAN has joined forces with baneful BARRY to spin a whole new series of black-magic yarns about the most mysterious hero in the history of comix, in the now-on-sale Ish of MARVEL PREMIERE! • Not to be outdone, Happy HERBIE (there's that name again!) has teamed up with Melancholy MIKE FRIEDRICH to present a spanking-new series of adventures of the ever-astonishing ANT-MAN, in the pages of the current MARVEL FEATURE! • And, just in case you're wondering whatever happened to our rapturously-received DEFENDERS and WARLOCK strips — well, just wait a few weeks and see for yourself, forbearing one! • KULL THE CONQUEROR is back in his own full-length mag, as well — depicted by the startling SEVERIN Siblings (who else?) — just in time to help us celebrate the return of our epoch-making CONAN THE BARBARIAN mag to regular monthly publication! • And, just to top off all the shenanigans, famous fantasy author HARLAN ELLISON has plotted a special issue of THE AVENGERS, which in turn has been ably illustrated by Marvel's newest star artist, riotous RICH BUCKLER • More you could ask for, in one short 30-day month? Stick around till next time, pilgrim! Mighty Marvel is *really* on the move again!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Whoa! Hold it! Stop everything! Before you pick up your pen to add to the thousands of angry letters we've already received, give us a chance to explain! It seems that almost everyone out there in Marveldom Assembled has written to castigate us for not printing announcements of our Carnegie Hall show right here in our mags, so that you could have known about it ahead of time. Unfortunately, it was impossible because our mags had already gone to press before the date was decided upon by both Carnegie Hall and our producer — and once all the arrangements had been made it was too late to get another date. But, don't lose faith, Believers! All is not lost! Luckily, a recording was made of the whole senses-shattering spectacle, and we're gonna try to turn it into an album which we'll offer for sale as soon as we can work out all the dazzling details. So, if you can bear the suspense, watch this space in the months to come — save your pennies — and tune up the ol' turntable, 'cause the best is yet to be!

Excelsior!

Stan

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Now On Sale!

FANTASTIC FOUR #124: From the stars he first came — and now he returns, to menace the earth as never before! The Monster of the Lost Lagoon!

SPIDER-MAN #110: No jail can hold him! Make way for the wildest new villain ever! — the Gibbon!

THOR #201: The wondrous wind-up to the battle for the soul of Odin! Heimdall's mysterious quest on earth! All this, and Ego-Prime, too!

AVENGERS #101: Our awesome assemblers face a foe who must murder five innocent people — or the earth will die! **HULK #153:** The Hulk on trial! Matt Murdock for the defense! A zillion surprise guest-witnesses! And then — but, you've gotta see for yourself!

CAPT. AMERICA and THE FALCON #151: Two of Marvel's mightiest — against a pair of sinister super-villains! The Scorpion and Mr. Hyde! 'Nuff said?

SUB-MARINER #51: The return of Prince Byrrah, pretender to the throne of Atlantis! Plus, the baneful Badoon!

DAREDEVIL #89: Death in the wind-lashed sky! Electro and Killgrave gang up against the Man Without Fear!

IRON MAN #48: Remember Firebrand — one of Marvel's most unique super-baddies? Well, he's back — and his target for today is ol' Shellhead!

CONAN THE BARBARIAN #16: The Night of the Frost-Giants! Conan battles alone — against towering titans! Crom!

KULL THE CONQUEROR #3: Even King Kull has never faced a threat like — Thulsa Doom! With the most cataclysmic climax in recent memory!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #3: What can even Spidey and the Torch do — against the super-powered vampire called Morbius?

TOMB OF DRACULA #3: At last — the mind-wrenching secret of Dracula's coffin! Plus — Dr. Van Helsing!

MARVEL FEATURE #4: What's it like to be trapped inside an insect-sized body? Don't answer till you read what happens to Hank Pym — the Ant-Man!

MARVEL PREMIERE #3: By popular request — nay, demand! Dr. Strange, master of magic, returns in a series of all-new, all-great thrillers!

CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #18: Gulliver Jones, Warrior of Mars — in deadly combat with Phra!

AMAZING ADVENTURES #13: The Brotherhood of Evil Mutants strikes again! But is the bludgeoning Beast against them — or with them?

SGT. FURY #100: The blockbuster you've been waiting for! The hard-hitting Howlers — as they were then — as they are today! Offbeat!

Plus! — **RED WOLF #2.** Don't miss this one!

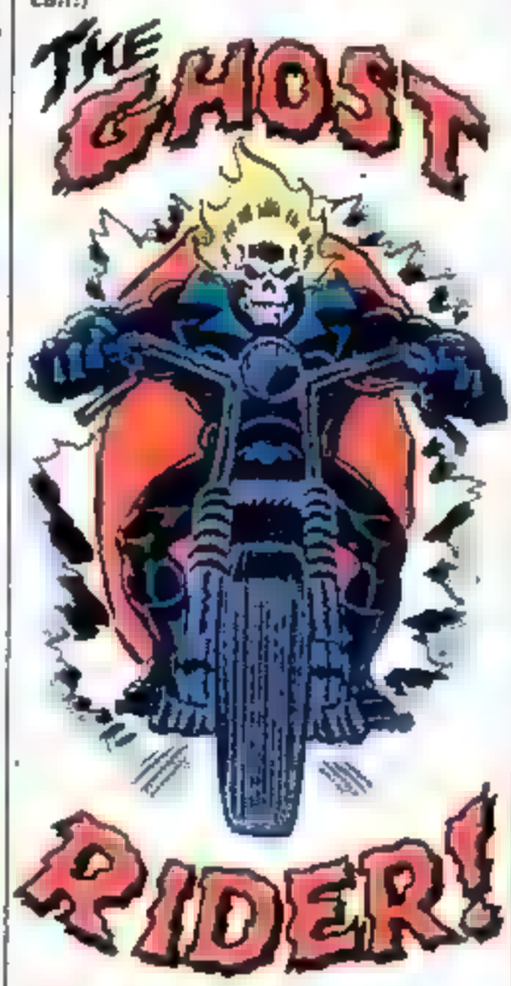
FANCIFUL FACT AND FRUMIOUS FABLES FOR FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE!

ITEM! Notice anything *different* about this month's Bullpen Page, observant one? You know it: there's no color-splashed box headed by the wondrous words, "STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX"! But fear not — Our Leader hasn't forsaken us as a result of that Carnegie Hall debut we gushed about last month. Partly, there's no Soapbox because Stan has winged his way southward for his first real vacation in many a moon — and it's kinda hard to plug an electric typewriter into the sand-castles at Miami Beach! More than that, though: he's already hard at work (mentally, at least) preparing a prodigious pronouncement which will stun your bedazzled senses next month! Sorry — we can't tell you what it's all about just now; but we hereby promise and proclaim that our very next Bullpen Bulletins will herald a brand-new era for Marvel — one that looks to be even greater, groovier, and more gargantuan than the one just past! And you'll be in on the ground floor if you tune in next month — same time, same place! Don't let us down, hear? We're nothing without you, pilgrim — and we *mean* that!

ITEM! Meanwhile, just to prove to you that mighty Marvel's not exactly standing still for the next few weeks: by now, you've doubtless already noticed the spectacular illo elsewhere on this self-same page and been wondering what's the buzz, right? So here's where we end the suspense. The current ish of MARVEL SPOTLIGHT debuts a far-out new feature which we think you're gonna dig. It's called GHOST RIDER — but, as anybody with 20-20 vision can plainly see, he's no blood relation to the western hero we sprung on you some time back. Nope — *this* GR is a mad, mod, mystic hero who straddles both the world of motorcycles — and the supernatural! (And that's some job of straddling!) It's by the titanic team of Groovy GARY FRIEDRICH, who dreamed the whole thing up, and Mad-cap MIKE PLOOG, whose own "Werewolf By Night" series is scheduled to gain its very own mag in a month or two! Oh yes, and for those of you who've been writing in to comment on the uncanny resemblance between Mike's artwork and that of the great WILL EISNER, creator of the Spirit during the 1940's — it's no news either to us or to Mike, people, 'cause Mike was indeed Mr. E's artistic assistant for a couple of years, just prior to his joining our beleaguered little crew! But thanks for noticing!

ITEM: Two of Marvel's own boy prodigies, Merry GERRY CONWAY and Sturdy STEVE ENGLEHART, recently hopped a fast 727 and flew out to address Indiana University's fully-accredited course on comix, which will soon be offered thru international correspondence as well. They held forth for three hours, followed by a lengthy rap session — and even turned up on the local TV channel to spread the word to acolyte and infidel alike! With Steve a native Hoosier, the whole thing was virtually a triumphal homecoming — except that, because of the hectic schedule, he never got around to visiting the ol' homestead!

ITEM! How about this tidbit: The much-lionized Mr. Lee did his own lecture-circuit thing a couple of months back at the prestigious University of Puget Sound (that's in the snow-capped state of Washington, natch). A few of the flame-keepers took Stan to the city's well-known, well-stocked zoo, where he got his first close-up look at a certain breed of awesome anthropoid. And, if you've guessed by now that that's how Smiley dreamed up the free-swingin' Gibbon, who's given Spidey such a hassle these past two issues — go to the head of the class, perspicacious-one! (That's just an aside for those of you who keep writing in to ask us where we get all our nutty ideas! Where we can, pal — where we can!)



ITEM! Oh yeah, and we just had to mention that this month's Checklist heralds a couple of real collectors'-item issues now on the stands — fabulous premier issues of both THE DEFENDERS and WARLOCK in their own mags! And what about this little bombshell to close with — in a month or two, the tempest-tossed team of THOMAS, ANDRU, and SEVERIN will be joining forces to bring you the adventures of one of the first and foremost super-stars of all — none other than the one and only DOC SAVAGE, MAN OF BRONZE! Marvel is really movin' out, affendi — so grab your ticket and welcome aboard! 'Nuff said!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL [illegible]
Now On Sale!

FANTASTIC FOUR #125: The Secret of the Monster! More mind-staggering action than mortal mind can conceive!

SPIDER-MAN #111: The Gibbon needs help, and he gets it — from none other than Kraven the Hunter! A must!

THOR #202: This is it! The battle to the finish with Ego-Prime! Wonders beyond measure — but who's counting?

AVENGERS #102: From out of the sun, they strike again — the sinister Sentinels! Plus — the Grim Reaper!

HULK #154: The astonishing Ant-Man! The Chameleon! And the hordes of Hydra! Does that clue you in, believer?

CAPT. AMERICA & THE FALCON #152: The Falcon fights alone! But alas — Mr. Hyde and the Scorpion *don't!*

SUB-MARINER #52: The most powerful mutant of *all* returns! Don't miss the deadly challenge of — Sunfire!

DAREDEVIL #90: The mysteries of Project Four! But, what happens when the Man Without Fear becomes — a coward?

IRON MAN #49: The Adaptoid is back! How do you fight a guy who combines the power of all the Avengers?

CONAN THE BARBARIAN #17: Monthly again — and greater than ever! Conan takes on the Grim Gods of Bal-Sagoth!

LUKE CAGE, HERO FOR HIRE: #2: Marvel's newest, nitty-grittiest super-star yet! But has he met his match in Diamondback?

ASTONISHING TALES #13: Ka-Zar vs. the misanthropic Man-Thing! And when AIM drops in, to boot — look out!

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #5: The world has never seen anything like the mysterious new Ghost Rider — and neither have you!

THE DEFENDERS #1: The Hulk! Sub-Mariner! Dr. Strange! Together again, against the man called Necrodamus! Offbeat!

WARLOCK #1: Perhaps the strangest hero ever — on the world called Counter-Earth! And wait'll you meet — the Prophet!

SGT. FURY #101: By popular demand! The origin of the Howling Commandos — ripped from the holocaust of World War II!

COMBAT KELLY #2: The Deadly Dozen really go to town — as Jay Little Bear takes on the whole blamed Nazi army!

Plus these wondrous winners: **X-MEN #77 — MONSTERS ON THE PROWL #18 — RAWHIDE KID # 102 — MARVEL TRIPLE ACTION #4 — OUTLAW KID #11 — FEAR #9 — WESTERN KID #5 — MARVEL TALES #36 — KID COLT OUTLAW #161 — OUR LOVE STORY #18 — LI'L KIDS #7 — HARVEY #4** — plus the usual MILLIE and CHILI madness! Collect 'em all — why not?

SUPER-SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Okay, troops, it's time to level with Marveldom Assembled! Each day a kaboodle of mail pours into the Bullpen asking why my script-writing output has dwindled to practically zero. I'd like to give you a simple answer, but I'm the kinda guy who can't say "hello" without making it a speech. So try to bear with me, huh? I think I can promise you a surprise or two as we go rambling along. Anyway, if ye hearken to these words, the seeds of truth and wisdom shall be scattered, meyhap, amongst thee!

Until now, mighty Marvel has been a lusty, gusty, irreverent mischief-maker in the wondrous world of comix. It was Marvel that first introduced heroes with human hang-ups; Marvel that popularized guest-star appearances till you needed a scorecard to tell you who was who; Marvel that dared create continued stories — and then forgot how to end them, so that they went on forever! It was Marvel who gave you a Bullpen Bulletins page where we can rap together like this. Marvel who liberated the geniuses who bring you these epics from their shadow of anonymity, and bitlboarded the name of every writer, artist, and letterer until you now know 'em almost as well as we do. Only Marvel could have made satire and sentimentality relevance and ribaldry a part of the comix mystique. And who but Marvel would have dared make a hero out of the Hulk, or a bald-headed, self-pitying sky-rider called the Silver Surfer? Well, we could go on forever, but it might sound like bragging — and you know how we hate to do that!

Anyway, that takes us up to the present. Like a fella named Milhous recently said, Phase One has just about had it — and it's time for Phase Two to begin. No man, no group of men, no publishing company can rest on its laurels — and Marvel's still much too young, too zingy, too bright-eyed and bushy-tailed to settle back and bask in the sun of yesterday's success. So here's the real scoop — here's where we're at, and where we're headed — and be sure to pay attention, 'cause we're not making a move without ya!

First, I've been bustin' to tell you that Rascally Roy Thomas, whose sensational scripts and awesome editorial assistance have helped spearhead Marvel's gallop to greatness, has been promoted to Editor! That means the titanic Mr. T. will be the omnipotent overseer of all our plots and stories. And you can bet he'll be ably assisted by the greatest group of with-it writers ever assembled under any comix roof — script-writing stalwarts such as Gerry Conway, Archie Goodwin, Steve Englehart, Mike Friedrich, Gary Friedrich, George Alec Effinger, Gardner Fox, and Stu Schwartzberg, not to mention Wild Bill Everett and Larrupin' Larry Lieber!

Next, Fearless Frank Giacoia has been appointed our Assistant Art Director! Frankie's credentials for this position are impeccable. He's not only one of the finest inkers our field has ever produced, but — and not many of you may know this — he's also a powerful penciller in his own right! Frank's been a top newspaper strip artist as well as a comic-book caliph for years — and now he's all ours!

But, if this sounds to you like ol' Stan is singing his own swan song, forget it! Yours Truly feels like a tiger unleashed! With Roy supervising our swingin' storylines, and Frankie lending a hand with the art direction (not to mention Jumbo John Verpoorten supporting the whole megillah by handling the almost superhuman job of coordinating our ever-increasing production schedules), it means that I'll finally have the time (after all these years of writing and kibitzing) to devote myself exclusively to dreaming up new, exciting projects for the Bullpen, new directions for us to take, new types of mags to produce — both comix and other kinds, and new fields for Marvel to conquer in film, TV, books, and you-name-it-we'll-do-it!

Wouldja believe we've already started work on a whole series of new comix titles? We'll clue you in, of course, in future Bullpen columns. Yep, we've got surprises in store for fanatical fans and casual readers alike. We're setting up brand new departments to bring you fantastic types of entertainment no comix company has ever thought of creating before. And, whenever I can take a break, I'll be devoting more time than ever to lecturing at colleges and universities, doing my bit to spread the gospel according to Marvel! However, even though I no longer have time to write any steady features, I've a hunch that this battered old typewriter which I'm pounding on right now will always prove to be a lure that I can't resist, so take warning — you never know when the phantom script-writer will strike again!

Anyway, we've been friends for so long, and shared so many great times together here on the pages of Marvel, that I'm just not about to let you get away! So you'll still find me yakkin' at you right here in the ol' Soapbox each month — and if you ever stand me up, it's one dement!

And that's it for now, gang. If you think we turned you on before, the best is yet to be — wait'll you see what's coming! Hang loose! Face front! Marvel's on the move again! We're pushing Phase Two — and it's all for you!

Excelsior!

Stan

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Now On Sale!

FANTASTIC FOUR #126: This is where it all began! Still "The World's Greatest Comix Mag!" And now — the return of the Mole Man!

SPIDER-MAN #112: Spidey cops out! Our wall-crawler turns his back on the world — and wait'll you find out why!

THOR #203: Ego-Prime defeated! Odin's master plan revealed at last! Then — the birth of a new mystery!

AVENGERS #103: The Sentinels strike! How can the Avengers stop them — while the Scarlet Witch is held hostage?

HULK #155: The awesome entity called — the Shaper of Worlds! And, wouldja believe — Captain Axis!

CAPT. AMERICA & THE FALCON #153: Cap vs. Nick Fury! Sharon quits Shield! While the Falcon — well, wait and see!

DAREDEVIL #91: He's back from the dead! Mr. Fear — the only man who knows DD's true identity! So — look out!

SUB-MARINER #53: The battle to the finish with Sunfire! And, you've never seen anything quite like Dragon-Lord!

IRON MAN #50: Can Princess Python give Shellhead a fight for his life? Well, if she can't — the Cyborg Sinister can!

CONAN THE BARBARIAN #18: Demons that walk like men! A world in chaos! See why we call this one — "The Kingdom of the Dead!"

KULL THE CONQUEROR #4: Fantasy master John Jakes plotted this one! "The Night of the Red Slavers!" A must!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #4: Spidey's life in danger! Morbius at large! And then — enter the X-Men! Like great!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #22: The hero who just wouldn't die! But, that was before he met — Megaton, the Nuclear Murderer!

AMAZING ADVENTURES #14: Give it up, Beast! Even you can't survive the deadly attack of Quasimodo — the computer that kills!

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #1: Marvel's newest, weirdest sensation yet! Man into wolf — at midnight! Far out!

TOMB OF DRACULA #4: Dracula at bay! A mysterious mirror — which may mean safety, or doom! Eerie beyond belief!

MARVEL FEATURE #5: Trapped in a world too big for him! Ant-Man comes face to face with — Egghead!

MARVEL PREMIERE #4: Serpent-men and shadows! Dr. Strange vs. — the Spawn of Sligguth!

CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #19: Gulivar Jones vs. the Barbarians of Mars! Fantasy — with a mighty Marvel twist!

SGT. FURY #102: Talk about way-out war-mags! The hard-hitting Howlers take on a crime syndicate — in wartime Italy!

RED WOLF #3: "The War of the Wolf-Brothers!" Our Indian avenger goes into action at the head of a raging wolfpack!

PULSATING PRONOUNCEMENTS AND PERTINENT PROPAGANDA FROM THE PUNDITS WHO PLAY FOR FUN!

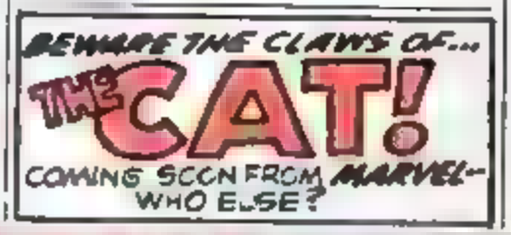
ITEM! No STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX this month, pilgrim! Turns out ol' Smiley feels he just about talked himself out last time around, with an awesome epistle which took up the length and breadth of the whole Bullpen page! Instead, our peerless new Publisher and erstwhile Editorial Director would prefer that we clue you in about some of the nifty new artists, writers, and phantasmagorical features we've got lined up for you this month and in the sun-splashed days to come! Ready? Then away we go . . .

ITEM! Biggest bombshell of all is the first fantastic issue of a comic-mag called DOC SAVAGE, THE MAN OF BRONZE! Unless you've been hiding in the wilds of Borneo, you recognize that name instantly as belonging to the old-time pulp-magazine hero who's been more popular than ever these past few years, as the super-star of a series of Bantam paperbacks—more than sixty to date, and still going strong. And now, mighty Marvel will be chronicling some of his greatest adventures in comix form! Doc's first ish was scripted by our spanking-new Editor ROY THOMAS and drawn by the widely-acclaimed team of ROSS (Boss) ANDRU and Long JOHN SEVERIN—and we've got a hunch that this is gonna be one of the biggies, right up there with rapturously-received newcomers like HERO FOR HIRE, DRACULA, WEREWOLF BY NIGHT, and WARLOCK! So get in on the ground floor with DOC SAVAGE, hear—and no getting off till we reach the 86th floor! (And, an artful aside to forestall about a zillion letters—yep, we've got THE SHADOW lined up for the weeks to come, also—so put away that crystal ball and start saving up your shekels, perspicacious one!)

ITEM! We've got some other fabulous firsts lined up for you this time, as well—but we'll let you read about them in the Checklist section! Meanwhile, just to prove we really *mean* it when we say that Marvel is on the move again, we've been busy digging up some talented new artists and writers to boggle your mind! Want a ferinstance or three? Well, try Far-Out FRANK BRUNNER, who teamed up with (ahem!) oldtimer BARRY SMITH on a recent Dr. Strange mini-saga, and who's slated for other things to boot! Then of course there's Ro sterous RALPH REESE, who helped us launch our new JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY mag, now on sale; the irreverent BILLY GRAHAM, who's polishing the pencils on the latest Luke Cage landmark; Mad cap MIKE TRIMPE, who's been helping brother HERBIE splash India ink on the latest Ant-Man extravaganzas—and this doesn't even count "Duke" WAYNE BORING, one of comicdom's potent pioneers, whose recent Captain Marvel return marks his first (but hopefully not his last) outing for the House of Ideas! Nope, we're not putting the ROMITAS and the BUSCEMAS and the rest of the Bullpen out to pasture—far from it! Rather, we plan to combine the best of the "old" with the best of the "new"—as miraculous Marvel picks up steam-roller speed on its breakaway path to greatness! You come too. . . .

ITEM! You've probably noticed the name GEORGE ALEC EFFINGER popping up on a tale or two of late, and wondered who (or what) he is! Well, he's an old crony and colleague of none other than Merry GERRY CONWAY—and he's a talented fantasy author in his own right! If you don't believe us, just fall by your local bookstore, which should now be displaying George's first hardbound s-f novel, which has the unlikely title *What Entropy Means to Me*. (And if you think the *title* is way-out, wait'll you read the book itself!) Okay, G.A.—that's plug enough for one issue! Welcome aboard—but the first time you miss a deadline, we're gonna tell the whole wide world how you got the nickname "Piglet"! 'Nuff said!

ITEM! And, if the rest of you wanna know what else STAN, ROY, and the Bullpen Gang have in store for you—sneak a peek at the snappy subliminal-type messages we've sprinkled around the various mags this month! Getting there is half the fun, Flame-Keeper! Peace!



THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Sizzling Selection of Gargantuan Goodies NOW ON SALE!

FANTASTIC FOUR #127: The ever-lovin' blue-eyed Thing fights alone! And—some of the most mind-staggering John Buscema artwork yet! Miss it not!

SPIDER-MAN #113: Doc Ock is back! Plus—everybody's favorite wall-crawler, trapped in the middle of the biggest Gang War this side of "The Godfather"!

INCREDIBLE HULK #156: It's Hulk vs. Hulk—to the death! But one of our green-skinned goliaths has the brain of—Bruce Banner! An instant smash!

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #1: Marvel's newest voyage into the World of the Weird! And with titles like "Dig Me No Grave!"—"House!"—and "More Than Blood!"—how can any ghostly-tales aficionado go wrong?

THE GUNHAWKS #1: Reno Smith and Kid Cassidy—black man and white man, pitted against every outhoot gun in the wild and woolly West!

CONAN THE BARBARIAN #19: Barry Smith returns as artist of the most widely-heralded comic-mag of all! And the story ain't bad, either!

FEAR #10: In his own series at last! The macabre Man-Thing—perhaps the most monstrous "hero" ever! Script by Conway—art by Gray Morrow!

Plus, these wondrous winners—

THOR #204 (Mephisto returns!)—AVENGERS #104—CAPT. AMERICA & THE FALCON #154—HERO FOR HIRE #3 (with the man called Mace!)—DARE-DEVIL #92—SUB-MARINER #54—IRON MAN #51—JUNGLE ACTION #1 (a sleeper!)—ASTONISHING TALES #14 (Ka-Zar goes to town!)—WARLOCK #2—DOC SAVAGE #1 (remember it?)—DEFENDERS #2 (co-starring the Silver Surfer!)—SPOOF #2—MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #6 (The Ghost Rider lives—or does he?)—COMBAT KELLY #3—and enough other assorted condiments and comix to keep you busy till next time!

Collect 'em all, hear?

GANGWAY, WORLD! MADCAP MARVEL MARCHES MERRILY ON!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Know something? We Bullpenners are so excited about all the new mags we're creating for you that I don't know which to talk about first. So, instead of beating the drums for CLAWS OF THE CAT, JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY, JUNGLE ACTION, GUNHAWKS, NIGHT NURSE, DOC SAVAGE, or SHANNA, THE SHE-DEVIL — I'm not even gonna mention 'em! I'll leave it to Rascally Roy to clue you in elsewhere on this page, now and in following issues. Instead, I'll just take another few secs to say "Hi" to all the great guys and gals I met during my most recent lecture tour at the Nassau Community College, the Universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba, Nashville Tennessee's Vanderbilt U., and good ol' Montana State. And, in case you think that the mighty Marvel craze is just a passing fad, you'd change your mind faster than Spidey can wiggle a web if you could have shared the wondrous welcomes at those hallowed halls of learning! (See? That'll prove I really can write a couple of sentences without plugging one of our titanic titles — titles such as WYATT EARP, GOTHIC THRILLERS, SPOOF — aw, forgive me, gang. This is a heckuva way for a Dr. of Comicology to behave!)

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Mind if we let you in on still another facet of just what goes on behind the scenes and in the minds of that amorphous entity we call the Mighty Marvel Bullpen? We didn't think so. Anyway, for years now, we've wanted to start a comic-mag which dealt exclusively with the daring-do of a gal superstar, instead of the usual hunk of masculine muscle. So, recently, Stan and Roy sat down to discuss what kind of book they should put out — and guess what! They came up with no less than three vastly different concepts, each of which they dug so much they ended up sticking all three on this summer's hectic schedule — two which debut this month, plus another that'll wing your way next time around!

First and foremost of these new spectaculars just has to be the far-out new feature we call: THE CLAWS OF THE CAT! And if the title doesn't tell you that it's destined to be one of the most action-packed, most talked-about new mags of this or any other year, we'll burn our vintage MMMS cards! What's more, THE CAT is drawn by none other than MARIE SEVERIN — and written by former Marvel staffer LINDA FITE, to boot! (At least this time, nobody's gonna be able to write in and say we've got artists and writers who don't understand the female of the species!) Also on sale right now is LINDA CARTER, NIGHT NURSE, drawn by longtime pro WINSLOW MORTIMER and scripted by Roy's own lovely lady, JEANIE THOMAS. Yeah, we know — it sounds like just another romance mag, however well-written and drawn; but take it from us, friend — this one is realistic, exciting — and *different*! And next month sees the dramatic debut of SHANNA, THE SHE-DEVIL — starring perhaps the most beauteous and offbeat jungle heroine in the history of the graphic arts! GEORGE TUSKA is penciling that one, and it's being penned by longtime comix buff CAROL SEULING. That's right, effendi — three great new mags, all written by gals — yet aimed neither at gals nor at guys, but at true lovers of comix literature everywhere! Try 'em — you'll like 'em!

ITEM! If you've latched onto the brand new premiere issue of CHAMBER OF CHILLS, Marvel's newest and most nightmarish weird-type entry — or if you dug last month's JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #1 — then doubtless you've noticed that we've added something a wee bit new to this kind of anthology title! For the foreseeable future (and we've got a zingy new crystal ball!), virtually each and every issue of these two mags, plus the fast-upcoming GOTHIC THRILLERS already in the works, will headline an eerie adaptation of a masterpiece by a major fantasy author! JOURNEY #1 featured a tale by the late great ROBERT E. HOWARD, creator of Conan and Kull — and the first ish of CHAMBER features a story by world-famed author HARLAN ELLISON, whose recent *Again, Dangerous Visions* hardcover volume is already destined to become one of the great s-f works of the 70's! Also on hand in near-future issues of our terror-laden triumvirate will be the likes of THEODORE STURGEON, ROBERT BLOCH (author of Psycho), and a whole horde of the greatest names in imaginative fiction! They'll be backed up by plenty of original stories as well, written by some of the finest scripters in the history of comix — and together, they're gonna knock you right out of your haunted house!

ITEM! You'll see a few new names in our credit-captions this time around. We'll let you seek 'em out for yourself — but here's a bit of background: IRV WESLEY, a former Bullpen great in the fabulous 50's, has returned to the fold to help us out with the latest saga of one of our most unique heroes! Then there's a lad named CRAIG RUSSELL, who works with oldtimer DAN ADKINS out in the wilds of Ohio! Oh yes, and how could we forget JIM STARLIN, a talented newcomer who's also been assisting JOHN ROMITA on Spidey's recent capers! Jim, by the way, was brought to Marvel by another of its new lights, RICH BUCKLER! Face it, friends and neighbors — Stan was telling it like it is when he said that the whole Marvel gang was turned on by all the new mags and new projects we've got up our collective sleeve! In fact, the latest word around the Bullpen is that when you work for mighty Marvel, you're not just an artist — you're also a talent scout!

MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
NOW ON SALE!
A Generous Grab-bag of Galvanizin' Goodies!

SPIDER-MAN #114: Spidey's got a spanking-new ulcer, right? And he's caught smack-dab in the middle of a gang war between Doc Ock and Hammerhead, right? So does that clue you in about which Marvel mag is definitely one of the wildest, woolliest chillers of the month? Right!!

THOR #205: The Thunder God vs. Mephisto — in the haunted halls of the Sub-World! And the demon's allies are none other than Thor's most trusted friends — including the lady Sif! Got it!

CAPTAIN AMERICA & THE FALCON #155: So you think you know all about the beginnings of our star-spangled stalwart? Well, wait'll you read — the Secret Origin of Captain America! A shocker!

SPOOF #2: Archie Bunkum lives! Don't miss "Brawl in the Family" Plus — "Tarz an' the Apes," and some titillating Tales from the Creep!

CHAMBER OF CHILLS #1: Harlan Ellison's "Delusion for a Dragon-Slayer" And two more of the most macabre masterworks of all! 'Nuff said?

THE CLAWS OF THE CAT #1: The dream of a dedicated genius — or the nightmare of a twisted madman? Which will win in the battle for the soul of the masked huntress we call — the Cat? With the most mind-staggering final page yet!

Not to mention *these* Bringers of Wonderment:

FANTASTIC FOUR #128 (The battle to the finish with the Mole Man!) — **AVENGERS #105** — **HULK #157** (The Rhino returns!) — **DAREDEVIL #93** — **SUB-MARINER #55** — **IRON MAN #52** — **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #26** — **TOMB OF DRACULA #5** (The Count takes a time-trip!) — **KULL THE CONQUEROR #5** — **NIGHT NURSE #1** — **WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #2** — **CAPTAIN MARVEL #23** — **MARVEL PREMIERE #5** (Dr. Strange lives!) — **MARVEL TEAM-UP #5** — **MARVEL FEATURE #6** (Ant-Man and the Wasp — together again!) — **CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #20** — **RED WOLF #4** — **AMAZING ADV. # 15** — **SGT. FURY #104** — and other winners too numerous (too humorous?) to mention! • • •

DRAMATIC DATA, DYNAMIC DISPATCHES, AND DEATH-DEFYING DECLARATIONS OF DECIDEDLY DUBIOUS DISTINCTION!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

WOW! Now that mixed-up Marvel has finally entered Phase Two of its vast, intergalactic operations, there's so much happening around here that I hardly know where to begin! You've probably seen most of the awesome announcements about our sensational new titles which are now on sale, titles like SHANNA THE SHE DEVIL and GOTHIC THRILLERS (starring a book-length adaptation of Theodore Sturgeon's world-famous chiller "IT") — so I won't have to mention them, or any of our other nifty newies, in this column. But, now that Marvel's on the *move* again, I do have to tell you about another sensation we've got in the works, slated to go on sale in December, for all the Marvel freaks on your Xmas list. (And what list would be complete without 'em?) It will present, in one giant-sized library edition, the actual ORIGINS of Marvel's greatest superheroes! And, if you wanna know how big and jam-packed it'll be, here's a heavy hint: it'll probably cost a *dollar* — and it would be a bargain at twice the price! But even that doesn't tell it all. They don't call us "The House of Ideas" for nothing. (Nope, we make them pay for it!) So, while you're still quaking in ecstatic anticipation, let's top the whole thing off by announcing the most frantic, far-out, fabulously frenzied monster *mag* you've ever goose-pimpled over! It's called MONSTER MADNESS, and the first Marvel Commandment is — thou shalt not miss it! It'll be on sale soon, so watch for it while you save your bread. (Sixty cents worth ought-ta do the trick.) Well, there's lots more coming, but we're almost out of *room*, so I'll just leave you with this tintinabulatin' thought: don't tell anyone what F.O.O.M. stands for! It's another little goodie we'll be tossin' at you, while Marvel Marches On!

Excelsior!

Stan

SPECIAL NOTE: DUE TO LACK OF SPACE ON THIS PAGE, THE WINNERS OF THE COMIX INDUSTRY'S OWN 1971 [illegible] WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON THE LETTERS-PAGE OF *CONAN THE BARBARIAN!*

ITEM! We know we went into rapturous detail last time about our new mod-type jungle opus, SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL (now on sale, at last), so we won't wax eloquent over it again — except to mention that writer CAROL SEULING and artist GEORGE TUSKA were helped out at the last minute by a bit of additional dialogue from the *nifty* new ballpoint of STEVE GERBER — a name we predict you'll be seeing a lot more of, in the near future! Steve's an old confident and correspondent of Roy's, whom he brought east to help himself and STEVE ENGLEHART with the editorial efforts on our ever-expanding comix line! Fact is, S. G.'s first solo scripting effort can already be witnessed, as well — in the current ish of FEAR, as he and RICH BUCKLER team up to raise the mighty Man-Thing to even loftier heights! Try it — you'll like it!

ITEM! Talking about *new things*, though — the *big* news this month is a spanking-new title called GOTHIC THRILLERS! That's the mag wherein we plan to present some of the greatest weird tales ever told — by some of the world's finest authors — in full, novel-length glory! And we're starting out with one of the most macabre sagas of all — an eerie little epic called "IT!" The author: none other than THEODORE STURGEON, one of the most widely-acclaimed fantasy authors in the world! Story adaptation by ROY THOMAS, with art by MARIE SEVERIN and FRANK GIACOIA — and an eye-popping cover by one JIM STERANKO! (Yep, that's right — the Jaunty One has returned to the fold at last, and you'll be seeing his signature on a goodly number of our covers in the months to come, including the current ish of another new Marvel biggie, DOC SAVAGE! Welcome home, Mr. S.! Now, if you'll just find the time to draw a *few panels* one of these first fine days. . .)

ITEM! And, lest you think that our new JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY and CHAMBER OF CHILLS mags are going to turn into the usual ghosts-and-goblins fare, we invite you to feast your mind and eyes upon the now-on-sale ish of JOURNEY! It features a spine-tingler called "Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper," originally written by none other than ROBERT BLOCH — the far-famed author of *Psycho* and other wondrous works of mystery and menace! The story adaptation, by the way, is by GIL KANE and RON GOULART — and if the latter name looks familiar, it's 'cause Ron himself is a well-known fantasy writer, whose recent novel *After Things Fall Apart* has received countless rave reviews! Face it, friend — the Top Talent has come home to roost in the House of Ideas — and we wouldn't want it any other way!

[illegible]

FANTASTIC FOUR #129: The Human Torch quits the F.F.! The Thing embattled! Plus, the return of the Frightful Four — starring a nefarious new recruit you'll never forget!

THOR #206: The Thunder God's greatest fight! The Absorbing Man strikes again! All this — and some of the most mind-boggling artwork ever!

DOC SAVAGE #2: The cataclysmic conclusion of Doc's first, fabulous adventure! The fightin' five against — the Son of the Feathered Serpent! Set in the 1930's — because you demanded it!

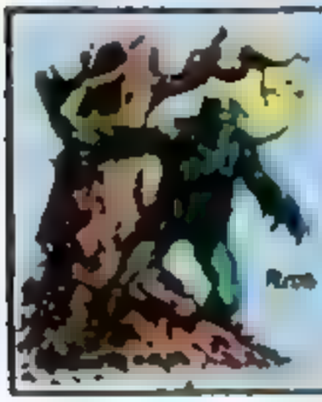
CAPTAIN AMERICA #156: This is it! Captain America vs. Captain America! Bucky vs. the Falcon! If you miss this one, you'll regret it! You have been warned!

GOTHIC THRILLERS #1: Like we said — Sturgeon, Steranko, Severin, Thomas, and Giacoia! 'Nuff, already?

SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL #1: Jungle adventure — with a twist! And an awesome origin that'll move and shake you! An instant smash!

Not to mention, these way-out winners:

SPIDER-MAN #115 (The Hordes of Hammerhead!) — **HULK #158** — **AVENGERS #106** — **DAREDEVIL #94** (How do you defeat a guy called — The Indestructible Man?) — **SUB-MARINER #56** — **IRON MAN #53** — **HERO FOR HIRE #4** (Now monthly — and greater than ever!) — **ASTONISHING TALES #15** — **THE DEFENDERS #3** — **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #21** (The Monster of the Monolith!) — **WARLOCK #3** — **JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #2** — **GUNHAWKS #2** — **FEAR #11** — **COMBAT KELLY #4** — **JUNGLE ACTION #2** — **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #7** (The Ghost Rider — who else?) — **SGT. FURY #105** — and a whole passel of pulse-pounding paradigms! Collect 'em all!



FRANKENSTEIN IS ALIVE AND WELL!

—AND COMING SOON TO MACABRE MARVEL!!

IRRELEVANT INFO AND INANE ITEMS, ILLUSTRATED AND INSCRIBED BY AN INFINITE NUMBER OF MONKEYS!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Here in your friendly neighborhood Bullpen, we're always getting letters from tormented True Believers, complaining that we don't give you enough advance notice whenever Marvel takes on some nutty new project—like the time we had a concert at Carnegie Hall, or when one of us makes a guest appearance on radio or TV, or when some new Marvel poster or album goes on sale. Well, often those earth-shattering events happen too fast for us to alert you. (And other times it's our own fershlugginer forgetfulness!) But now, for once, we're doing it right! If you miss out this time, you can't blame us! Even as you thrill to these wondrous words, the first sensational new issue of MONSTER MADNESS is going on sale! It's just what Marveldom Assembled has been clamoring for—monsters, gags, ghouls, and guffaws! It's filled with fantastic far-out fotos and a zillion zingy surprises! It's a cool 60¢, for 64 big, jam-packed pages of phantasmagoric pandemonium! MONSTER MADNESS! You'll probably find it on display near the various black-and-white monster and humor-type mags. You can't miss it—it'll be the one they're fighting over! MONSTER MADNESS! Modesty forbids me to mention the author; but he sort'a resembles the same sweet guy who's now signing off with his usual ubiquitous—

Excelsior!

Stan

P.S. In case I was too subtle, what I'm shyly trying to hint at is MONSTER MADNESS! Grab it! It's wild!

ITEM! Speaking of mad, mad monsters—and isn't the merry month of October the best possible time for doing just that?—we've just got to clue you in to our own *brand new* creature-feature, the comic-mag we call THE MONSTER OF FRANKENSTEIN! With the unparalleled success of WEREWOLF BY NIGHT and THE TOMB OF DRACULA, it was impossible that we'd be able to resist the clarion call to add the most famous gargoyle of all to the mighty Marvel roster. And we've done it with a vengeance, people! First off, we got our Werewolf wonder-boy MIKE PLOOG to pencil—and monster-fan first class GARY FRIEDRICH to script. Next, we decided to do things up brown by being more faithful to Mary Shelley's original masterpiece of suspense than virtually any of the media have ever done before! Pick up a copy and see what we mean, okay? THE MONSTER OF FRANKENSTEIN—lumbering toward your friendly neighborhood newsstand right *now*!

ITEM! And, as long as it's that time of year again, this year macabre Marvel is tossing not one but two spell binding Halloween specials at you! Don't dare miss the titanic two-parter which is interwoven between the smouldering pages of the current issues of THE MIGHTY THOR and AMAZING ADVENTURES (where the block-bustin' Beast holds forth)! Remember—the dread Dormammu is watching you!

ITEM! For those of you who've been clamoring for ages to see some new development in the young life of Franklin B. Richards (beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. Fantastic), we can't resist exhorting you to feast your bemused eyeballs on the latest ish of FANTASTIC FOUR! This month's saga contains only the barest, briefest hint of the shape of things to come—but it's a must! 'Nuff said?

MARVELOUS MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! Didja know that our own DICK AYERS has been teaching a course in comic-book artistry at the world-famous Guggenheim Museum? It's all for the benefit of underprivileged kids in the New York City area. The Darlin' One says, "They call me 'Mr. Ayers'—and make me feel like Mr. Chips!" Right on, Richard! • Congrats to RICH ("Swash") BUCKLER on the latest addition to his own private Bullpen: a bouncing baby boy, born just a few days ago as these words are penned! The blessed event made poor Rich a day or two late on one of our ever-pressing deadlines, but what the hey—some things even our hectic schedule has to take a back seat to! • Be sure to dig the swingin' sword-and-sorcery epic by Messrs. VAL MAYERIK and DAN ADKINS in the second sensational issue of CHAMBER OF CHILLS! It's scripted by none other than fantasy author JOHN JAKES, and stars his own far-famed paperback hero, BRAK THE BARBARIAN! A surprise smash! • Remember when "The Fugitive" made TV history by actually *ending* the series when it left the tube? Well, GEORGE ALEC EFFINGER and GRAY MORROW have done the same thing with the first segment of our try-out feature "Warrior of Mars" in the now on-sale issue of CREATURES ON THE LOOSE! Miss it not! • And didja know, since HERO FOR HIRE has gone monthly it's been taking not one but two artists to pencil the mag? BILLY GRAHAM and GEORGE TUSKA are currently alternating on Luke Cage's astounding adventures, with Billy inking George's issues and banging out all the covers! Who says you don't get more for your hard-earned coppers from mixed-up Marvel?

MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
Now On Sale!

SPIDER-MAN #116: The elections are nearly upon us—and so is the startlingly sinister Smasher! This is one of the big ones! Story by Stan Lee—art by Johnny Romita!

HULK #159: Ol' Greenskin is back on earth at last! But alas, so is—the ever-awesome Abomination! One of the greatest battle-issues ever!

CLAWS OF THE CAT #2: Marvel's newest, niftiest heroine risks all nine lives as she takes on Daredevil's old foe the Owl—against the Chicago skyline! Like wild!

CRYPT OF SHADOWS #1: Another pulse-pounding premiere issue! You'll shudder to spend—"Midnight on Black Mountain!" Bonus: a tale of terror by Basil Wolverton, one of the most-copied comix artists of all time!

WAR IS HELL #1: In any time—in any clime—war is hell! And we can prove it, with raw, rugged artwork by Herb Trimpe, Al Williamson, George Woodbridge, Dick Ayers, and the late great Bob Powell! Battleground action thru the ages! It dares to be different!

SPOOF #3: Madcap Marvel takes on "The Frogs", TV's Partridge Family, and John Wayne! Any bets on who *wins*? Don't goof—back SPOOF!

Not to mention these Priceless Purveyors of Pandemonium

FANTASTIC FOUR #130 (The finish of the Frightful Four!)—**THOR #207—CAPTAIN AMERICA & THE FALCON #157—AVENGERS #107** (The Grim Reaper and the Space Phantom!)—**DAREDEVIL #95—IRON MAN #54—SUB-MARINER #57—CONAN THE BARBARIAN #22** ("The Shadow of the Vulture!!")—**HERO FOR HIRE #5—CHAMBER OF CHILLS #2— TOMB OF DRACULA #6—MARVEL PREMIERE #6—MARVEL FEATURE #7—AMAZING ADVENTURES #16—KULL THE CONQUEROR #6** (Beneath the sleeping city waits—the Worm!)—**NIGHT NURSE #2—MARVEL-TEAM-UP #6**—(Spidey and the Thing—together!)—**WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #3—CAPTAIN MARVEL #24—FRANKENSTEIN #1** (Subtle hint #283 in a series!)—**CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #21—SGT. FURY #106**—and the first fab issue of **TEX DAWSON, GUN-SLINGER,** with art by ROMITA and cover by STERANKO!

Get there early and avoid the rush!

WATCH OUT FOR—THE INVISIBLE MAN! A GOTHIC MASTERWORK—COMING YOUR WAY IN A SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS #2!

AWSOME ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR YOU TO CONJURE WITH, PONDER OVER—AND YAWN AT!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Those of you who've been with us since the early days of Marvel have probably lost track of how many times I've hammered home the point that, unlike cigarettes, our comics are really good for you. Well, I've recently received a letter from Stephen Nazzaro at the University of Massachusetts that really lays it on the line, so take it away, Steve—

Dear Stan: Here at the University of Massachusetts, I'm co-chairperson of the Northern Educational Service Coordinating Committee. One year ago we wrote to you requesting some subscriptions to Marvel Comics for use in our tutoring program. Your comics have proven an overwhelming success as tutoring tools to each of over 300 tutors here and to all those enrolled in the program—numbering close to 1,000. Our tutors unanimously reported that when Marvel Comics were used with substandard readers or those with specific reading difficulties, their ability to pronounce syllables and understand word meanings increased greatly. But most importantly, reading your comics instilled a willingness to read in some of the more stubborn ones that was never before present! For many, this was the first time in their lives that they actually enjoyed reading. Very few of the materials in our office that were designed expressly to assist those with reading problems were as effective as Marvel Comics, or received such consistently positive endorsements. Hopefully, publicizing the ways we use Marvel Comics in our tutoring program will expose others to their potential value as learning tools.

Sincerely,
Stephen C. Nazzaro,
Co-chairperson

Of course, this doesn't mean that reading our munificent mags will turn you into a genius overnight. It could take as long as a week!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! You know how we're always saying that we like to level with you whenever humanly possible? And how we've been telling you that we've been hard-pressed to meet all our much-dreaded deadlines since the decision was made to add a bunch of new titles to the mad-cap Marvel line? Well, recently, neo-editor ROY THOMAS decided that there was one (and probably only one) way to meet the problem—and that is, by doing at least one extra, *fill-in* issue of virtually each and every one of our monthly mags (and maybe a few of our bi-monthlies, too, just to be on the safe side)! Still, rather than just toss them at you at random and let you think we're playing musical chairs with our artists simply for the heck of it, he and STAN decided to announce the whole policy more or less *in advance*. That way, you won't be thrown for a loss when you see a surprise guest-artist penciling your favorite strip sometime in the next few months—and besides, now you and the rest of Marveldom Assembled can have a ball trying to guess exactly who will do the inventory story in this or that mag.

Just a helpful hint or two: Occasionally the fill-in ish will be done by one of the stellar artists of our monthly line-up. More often, naturally, it'll be done by someone whose work you've glimpsed hither and yon but who doesn't do a regular feature for us. (And this includes a few all-time comix greats whose work you probably haven't thrilled to in a good long while!) Also, whenever possible, we intend to keep the same *writer* and *inker* on that issue, so that our far-famed Marvel continuity won't be shot to heck! Okay, we've had our say, believe! Now, just trust us when we swear we're not *really* doing this because we wanna send any of you frenetic ones off the deep end! 'Nuff said!

ITEM! Oh, and just to get things rolling: in case you haven't already guessed, that "extra" tale or twain of everybody's favorite SPIDER-MAN is the current re-working by Jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA and Merry GERRY CONWAY of the epic which originally appeared in the SPIDEY SPECTACULAR—albeit in wildly different form . . . while ROSS ANDRU has teamed up with Rascally ROY and Joltin' JOE SINNOTT to help Big JOHN BUSCEMA get ahead on the FANTASTIC FOUR! There's another shock or two lurking around this month, too—but we'll let you seek those out for yourself!

MARVELOUS MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! Hey! Anybody out there dig the Irreverent BILLY GRAHAM (Luke Cage's mighty mentor) when he M.C.'d a comedy show recently in Greenwich Village's famous *Village* Gate night club? If not—well, better luck next time! • We've already mentioned ROSS (Boss) ANDRU, but just wait'll you dig the first art-job he did as regular artist of SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL! • Also, we're dead certain most of you haven't forgotten Rollin' CHIC STONE, who inked some of Marvel's greatest triumphs during the sizzling 60's! And now you'll be seeing more of his awesome artistry on RED WOLF and other sensational strips! Welcome back, Chickie-Baby! • You oughtta see the pile of mail we get each day congratulating us for snagging WILD BILL EVERETT once more to handle the feature he created! Io, these many moons ago—none other than SUB-MARINER, what else? Now if we can just get him to make a deadline or two! • What a month this has been! No sooner did Rascally ROY THOMAS stagger back from his West-Coast vacation (during which he was a major guest, along with California-born MIKE FRIEDRICH, at the gala SAN DIEGO COMICS CONVENTION), than Stainless STEVE ENGLEHART departed for that same golden state—and we just heard a rumor that GERRY CONWAY'S packing his bags for L.A., to boot! Sheesh! Now if somebody would just stick around long enough to write a comic-mag or two! • Here's a final teaser: In the next month or three, we've got two zingy new features to unleash upon you in already-established titles. We don't want to over-excite anybody, so we'll just whisper that their names are THONGOR OF LOST LEMURIA and WAR OF THE WORLDS! There! Does that start anybody's adrenalin pumping away? Yeah . . . we kinda thought so.

See ya

MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
Now Go Get It!

FANTASTIC FOUR #129: The Human Torch and Quicksilver battle each other—and a maddening new menace—in the land of the uncanny Inhumans! This one's where the action is, people!

SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS #2: The *Invisible Man* stalks the streets once more! From the spine-tingling chiller by *H. G. Wells!* Don't dare miss it!

DOC SAVAGE #3: You'll never forget Ulla—commander of the Silver Death's-Heads! And neither will Doc Savage or his Fightin' Five!

VAULT OF EVIL #1: You've wandered into the Chamber of Chills—and come shuddering out of the Crypt of Shadows! Now, it's time to enter—The Vault of Evil! Some of the scariest spook-taculars of all!

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #3: "The Shadow on the Steeple"—by master storyteller Robert Bloch! Plus two other dead-of-night shockers!

SHIELD #1: The greatest Shield sagas of all! Plus a dazzlingly dynamic cover by Jim Steranko! Far-out—and fabulous!

Plus *this* compendium of instant classics:

SPIDER-MAN #117 (The Smasher strikes back—and how!)—**AVENGERS #108**—**THOR #208** (Introducing—the 4-D Man!)—**HULK #160**—**CAPTAIN AMERICA & THE FALCON #158**—**IRON MAN #55** (The Day of the Destroyer!)—**DAREDEVIL #96**—**SUB-MARINER #58**—**ASTONISHING TALES #16** (Ka-Zar battles—in the heart of a hostile city!)—**HERO FOR HIRE #6**—**CONAN THE BARBARIAN #23** (Even the Cimmerian is no match for—Red Sonja!)—**THE DEFENDERS #4**—**WARLOCK #4**—**CRAZY #1** (What's in it? You'll find out!)—**SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL #2**—**GUNHAWKS #3**—**COMBAT KELLY #5**—**MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #4** (The Ghost Rider prowls again!)—**SGT. FURY #21**—**FEAR #12** (Manhunt for a Man-Thing!)—**JUNGLE ACTION #3**—plus a new, off-beat feature called CALVIN—starting this issue in **LITTLE KIDS #10**—where else? Do yourself a favor—try 'em all!

FOUR OR FIVE PHENOMENAL FLASHES, FITFULLY FASHIONED TO FIGHT LETHARGY!
(Or: Those Wedding Bells Are Waking Up That Old Bullpen Gang Of Mine!)

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

It worked, gang! You proved that you really do read the nutty news, notes, and nonsense which we try to cram into these pulsating pages each month. For the past few issues we've been sockin' it to you with our memorable mentions of the latest Marvel mystery known as — FOOM. We hoped some of you would notice, and we figured we might even get a letter or two asking what FOOM was all about. But never in our wildest, wackiest flights of fancy could we have anticipated the fantastic flood of mail with which you've bombarded us demanding an explanation! So okay! The time hath come to pierce the veil of secrecy and illuminate the stygian darkness of most ignoble ignorance! And yet, FOOM is too much fun — too zingy a secret — to blow the whole bit in this one column. Instead, let's uncover just a part of the awesome answer and keep the suspense swingin' a while longer. FOOM is a name — composed of the first letters of four special words. Two of those words are "of" and "Marvel". The other two? See if you can guess what they are by next ish. If you can, consider yourself no-prized, and don't breathe a word of it or we'll drum you out of the corps! If you can't, don't despair — you won't be deprived of the agonizin' answer much longer. So, till next time, keep the faith, face front, and don't do anything FOOM wouldn't do!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! The big news around mighty Marvel this month is — a wedding! Nope, Spidey and Gwen haven't taken the big step yet — and bashful Ben Grimm is still footloose and fancy free — but the Hulk's very own HERB TRIMPE and lovely LINDA FITE (scripter of THE CAT, what else?) finally decided it was time they tied the knot! As these deathless words are penned, they've just said their "I do's" and split for some top secret location (the Hulk-Buster Base, perchance?) for a full-scale honeymoon, then it's back to Fun City and more of our delirium-inducing deadlines! Last we heard, Herb and Linda hadn't yet formulated any plans for ol' Greenskin to start going steady with the ever-clawing Cat — but from now on, don't take *anything* for granted, hear?

ITEM! Face it, friend — the whole wide world is going SPIDER-MAN happy! The other day, a wild new bi-weekly called *The Monster Times* devoted an entire issue to our web-spinning wonder, with a sizable (and well-deserved) spread on artist JOHNNY ROMITA! And now, who but the prestigious *New Yorker* magazine has just featured a full-length piece on Spidey's sensational new scripter, GERRY (GERARD F.) CONWAY! Hmmm . . . *The Monster Times* . . . *The New Yorker* . . . Looks like there are no worlds left for the ol' wall-crawler to conquer, 'cept maybe the *Ladies' Home Journal*! But, who knows — maybe one of these fine days — !

ITEM! With a pair of brawny barbarians named CONAN and KULL currently the toast of comicdom, we figured it was time we bowed to countless requests to add yet a *third* sword-wielding hero to our legend-laden lineup! So, step aside for THONGOR, WARRIOR OF LOST LEMURIA — a stunning new series which debuts in the current issue of CREATURES ON THE LOOSE! Thongor is the cataclysmic creation of fantasy writer (and sometime Conan author) LIN CARTER, and is the star of some half dozen or more best-selling paperback books! Story and art are by GEORGE ALEC EFFINGER and VAL MAYERIK — and wait'll you dig how these two talented newcomers really move out! That's THONGOR — in CREATURES — now on the loose! End of plug!

ITEM! Apology time, people! A couple of months back, we announced we were planning a deluxe edition of miraculous MARVEL ORIGINS for release by Christmas '72! Well, our recent expansion to well over three dozen titles a month (or had you been counting?) has left us just too blamed breathless to get it all together in time for the Holidays — so we'll have to beg off for a little while, okay? Honest to Irving Forbush, though — it's only a slight delay, not a permanent setback — and we'll clue you in on the exact release date the minute we know it ourselves! In other words — watch *this* space! (Not that it's *doing* much of anything, but at least that'll keep you out of mischief till our awesome ORIGINS book goes on sale!)

MARVELOUS MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! A special vote of thanks from ROY and JEANIE THOMAS, and from Jaunty JIM STERANKO, to the warm-hearted souls who made them Guests of Honor at the New England Comics Convention held recently in Boston, Mass.! Believe 'em when they tell you — it was a ball! • Talk about shockers! For months now, scripter STEVE ENGLEHART and our pal SAL BUSCEMA have been laying the groundwork for some far-out and far-reaching new developments in the life of our own shield-slingin' CAPTAIN AMERICA! And this is the month when it all comes home to roost! A word to the wise . . . ! • Finally, now that Stainless Steve has gone over to full-time writing chores, let's welcome aboard Dauntless DON McGREGOR, whom longtime Marvelites will recall from about a zillion letters-pages, and who's now helping Rascally ROY and STEVE (Baby) GERBER handle all our prodigious proofreading chores! For the first time since he took over as editor some time back, summer vacations are over and Roy's got a full contingent (two — count 'em — two!) of editorial assistants to help him out — so now maybe he and Smilin' STAN can finally find time to confer on all the cataclysmic changes and surprises they plan to unleash on you in the near and dear future! And when they do — watch out, wondrous ones!!

MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
Now On Sale!

SPIDER-MAN #118: This is it! The way-out wind-up, as Spidey takes on both the deadly Disruptor — and the lethally-strong Smasher! A thrill on every page!

FANTASTIC FOUR #132: The uncanny Inhumans! The ominous behemoth called Omega! Plus — the most shock-laden epilogue ever! Miss it not!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #25: Take it from us — The start of a world-shattering *new* storyline, destined to make C.M. one of the most-talked-about titles in comic-book history!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #7: Together for the first time! Spidey and Thor, the mighty God of Thunder! All this — and a surprise super-baddie, to boot!

SPOOF #4: You've read *Dracula*—you've dug *Blacula*—now, feast your eyes (all four of 'em) on none other than — *BLECHula!* Plus — a Spoof squint at Marcus Welby, M.D.!

CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #22: Like we said Thongor, Warrior of Lost Lemuria! More we gotta tell you?

Not to mention *this* Lineup of Litin' Landmarks.

THOR #209 (Day of the Super-Druid!) — **HULK #161** — **CAPTAIN AMERICA & THE FALCON #159** — **AVENGERS #109** — **SUB-MARINER #59** (Namor takes on New York—and Thor, for good measure!) **DAREDEVIL #97** — **IRON MAN #56** — **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #24** ("The Song of Red Sonja" — #1 on any hit parade!) — **HERO FOR HIRE #7** (A Yule-tide action epic, no less!) — **CLAWS OF THE CAT #3** — **CHAMBER OF CHILLS #3** ("The Thing on the Roof!" Robert E. Howard strikes again!) — **TOMB OF DRACULA #7** — **CRYPT OF SHADOWS #2** — **WAR IS HELL #2** — **AMAZING ADVENTURES #17** (Special! The origin of the blockbustin' Beast!) — **KULL THE CONQUEROR #7** — **MARVEL FEATURE #8** (The agonizin' Ant-Man fights on!) — **WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #4** — **MARVEL PREMIERE #7** (Dr. Strange—hot on the trail of world-devouring Shuma-Gorath!) **NIGHT NURSE #3**—**SGT. FURY #108**—plus other gargantuan goodies too numerous to mention (so we won't)!

Get 'em all, pilgrim! Like the man said — a prize in every package!

BITE-SIZE BITS AND BEATIFIC BROMIDES! (or: Half A Bullpen Page Is Better Than None!)

ITEM! Whew! We've got so many goodies to be tossin' at you over the coming weeks (and we've got a hunch you're gonna flip over just about every one of them!) that Our Leader has had to forego writing his titillatin' STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX the next month or twain. But worry—The Man'll be crackerelin' his way into your hearts again almost before you know it!

ITEM! Meanwhile, can there be any doubt that the Second Age of Marvel is upon us in full glorious bloom? Last month, we hit you with a broadside about the still-on-sale DRACULA LIVES!—the first entry in our earth-shaking new line of giant-sized 75¢ comics. This time around, we've got to tell you about another new b&w mag, which we call—MONSTERS UNLEASHED! In addition to art and script by the Bullpen's best, this one features adaptations of some of the greatest writers in the field—including a Solomon Kane tale by Conan's creator, ROBERT E. HOWARD, and a way-out werewolf thriller by ROBERT (*Psycho/Asylum*) BLOCH, among others! All this—plus far-out extra features (on film and fantasy in general) and a treasury of fearsome photos to boot! Now on sale, true believer—so miss it not!

ITEM! And, next month, we're gonna tell you all about TALES OF THE ZOMBIE and VAMPIRE TALES, which—but, we'd better hold *something* back till then, okay?

ITEM! Meanwhile, in case you think we're forgetting our ever-popular line of regular comics: Feast your eyes on the current SPIDER-MAN super-spectacular. It's one of the greatest, most important issues ever—spotlighting perhaps the most momentous turning point yet in the career of our wondrous wall-crawler! Take it from us—this is the one! 'Nuff said?

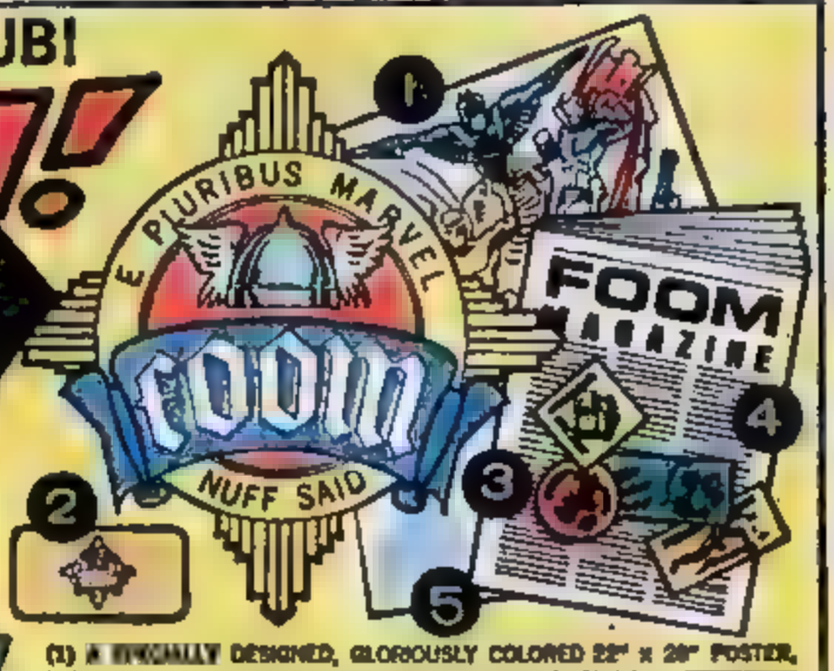
ITEM! This is *really* gonna rock ya! For years now, you Seekers After Truth have been bombarding us with pleas for Marvel to try its halcyon hand at something besides comic-books, just for the heck of it. Well, ol' Smiley finally had to give in—and the result is now lurking on your friendly neighborhood newsstand. It's a dynamic, dazzling, digest-sized *magazine* called THE HAUNT OF HORROR, which features some of the most pulsating prose masterworks of the macabre ever to see print! Edited by our own GERRY CONWAY (with ROY THOMAS as consulting editor and GEORGE ALEC EFFINGER as assistant ed.), it's been designed with the discriminating Marvel-type reader in mind. The first issue heralds terror tales by the likes of FRITZ LEIBER, HARLAN ELLISON, R. A. LAFFERTY, and others too numerous (and nefarious) to mention. Add to that a host of nightmarishly incredible *illustrations* by some of the finest in the business, including a mind-blowing cover illo by GRAY MORROW—and you'll see why '73 has just gotta be Marvel's year!

Remember—that's THE HAUNT OF HORROR—just 60¢ for 168 great pages! Look for it among the digest-size publications on the stands—and you'll never *live* to regret it!

THE ULTIMATE FAN CLUB!

FOOM!

FRIENDS OF OL' MARVEL



FOOM! THE WILDEST, WACKIEST, MOST WAYOUT IDEA SINCE IRVING FORBUSH COMBED HIS HAIR IN THE PENCIL SHARPENER! IT'S BOLDER, BIGGER, BETTER THAN THE MMMS AND MARVELMANIA PUT TOGETHER, AND WHAT'S MORE, IT'S GONNA BE RUN BY ALL OF US MERRY MARVEL MADMEN OURSELVES! STAN (THE MAN) LEE IS HEAD FOOMER! JAUNTY JIM STERANKO IS MINISTER OF INFOOMATION! AND RASCALLY ROY AND YOUR OTHER BULLPEN BIGGIES WILL ALL BE SHARING THE FUN! BUT HANG ON, HERO, 'CAUSE HERE'S THE BEST PART—HERE'S WHAT YOU GET AS SOON AS YOU JOIN THE FELLOWSHIP OF FOOM:

(1) A SPECIALLY DESIGNED, GLORIOUSLY COLORED 22" x 28" POSTER, FEATURING OUR GRANDEST, GREATEST HEROES! (2) YOUR [illegible] CARD, WHICH WILL BECOME YOUR PROUDEST POSSESSION! (3) A FISTFUL OF FRIVOLOUS STICK-ONS, WHICH ONLY YOUR BLUSHIN' BULLPEN COULD CREATE! (4) AND, TO MAKE IT THE BARGAIN OF THE CENTURY, AN ABSOLUTELY FREE, FULL YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO MARVEL'S NEWEST MASTERPIECE, THE FRANKLY FANTASTICAL FOOM MAGAZINE, JAMMED FULL OF COMICS, PHOTOS, STORIES, PRIZES, GAMES, AND EXCLUSIVE NEWS ITEMS ABOUT THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF COMICS, TOGETHER WITH ADVANCE NOTICES ABOUT MARVEL'S OWN LATEST PLANS AND PROJECTS! (5) P.S.: YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES WHEN YOU SEE THE SPECIAL SURPRISE ENVELOPE THAT ALL THESE GOODIES COME IN!

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ONLY $2.50 INCLUDING POSTAGE & HANDLING

DIET-SIZED DROPLETS OF DUBIOUS DISTINCTION!
(Or, Half A Bullpen Page In The Hand Is Worth Two In The Foot!)

ITEM! The big news this month is—TALES OF THE ZOMBIE! That's right—Marvel's newest, most nefarious addition to its sensational new lineup of giant-sized 75¢ mags is now on sale! It introduces a macabre new creation we call The Zombie (what else?) in a movie-length milestone which leaves no tombstone unturned to thrill and chill you—plus more of the same kind of eerie epics, fearful features, and far-out photos that bedazzled you in DRACULA LIVES and the still-on-sale MONSTERS UNLEASHED #1. All this—plus one of the spookiest cover illos ever! That's TALES OF THE ZOMBIE #1—now rising from the grave from coast to coast! Get it—you'll never forget it!

ITEM! And that reminds us—the second incredible issue of DRACULA LIVES! is now on sale, to boot! This one spotlights the terror-tale that Bram Stoker forgot to write but Marvel didn't: the pulse-pounding origin of the most dangerous, most deadly vampire of all! And that's just for openers! 'Nuff said?

ITEM! No, not quite. For, we just had to mention that, due to the multitude of letters we've gotten recently asking us, imploring us, *begging* us to let everybody know when one of our littlin' landmarks is about to go on sale, we're hereby starting an ambitious new series of ads for our various new projects, special issues, or just plain extra-good issues of long-established mags! We're spacing the ads out, so you won't find each one in each and every title—but if you pick up a sizable handful of our masterworks each month, you can be certain you'll be kept abreast of just what mixed-up Marvel is up to! (At least, you'll know as much as we do—which isn't saying much!)

ITEM! By the time you read these perishable words, doubtless our offices at 575 Madison Avenue will be inundated with requests that we bring back our Mighty Marvel Checklist. Well, rest content, long-suffering one—for, already jaunty JIM STERANKO is hard at work on the first fantabulous issue of FOOM MAGAZINE, which you get when you join our nifty new fan-club—and it'll tell you just about everything you ever wanted to know about our upcoming mags, but were too choked-up to ask—plus a barrage of behind-the-scenes Bullpen Info! Meanwhile, we'll keep using those juicy little squibs at the bottoms of our pages to clue you in on our latest issues.—Got all that? Okay, now type it out in approved outline form and ship it right off to us, willya? 'Cause right about now, we could use it!

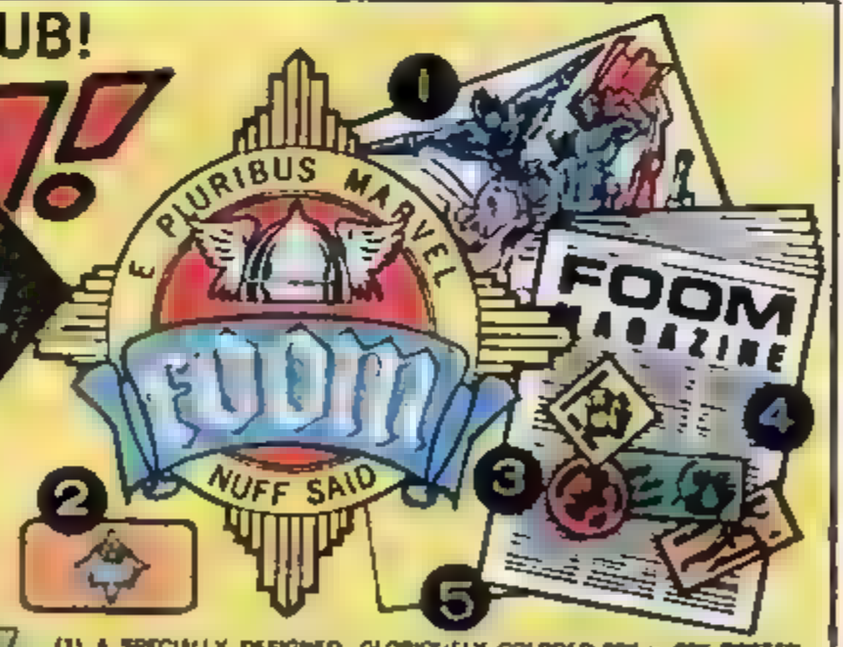
ITEM! We're hard-pressed for room, but we just had to tell you about three *big* changes at Marvel that we think will mean a lot to you in days to come! First off, we've persuaded Jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA to take on fulltime chores as our awesome Art Director—which means he'll be overseeing the interior art on all our mags, and likewise working closely with Rascally ROY THOMAS on ideas for our cavortin' covers! Also, we've cajoled mirthful MARIE SEVERIN into overseeing the coloring on all our stories—and the lady is known as one of the all-time great colorists in this whole nutty business! And, last but not least, Marvelous MARV WOLFMAN has stepped in as our newest and major Assistant Editor—to help Roy with proofreading and general kibitzing of the whole furshlugginer line! Welcome aboard, people—you've all got a tremendous challenge ahead of you, but then that's what life is all about, right? Right! (At least, that's what we *think* it said in the small print!)

MARVEL IS ON THE MOVE AGAIN!

THE ULTIMATE FAN CLUB!

FOOM!

FRIENDS OF OL' MARVEL



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MORE MINIATURIZED MOUTHFULS OF *MARVEL*-OUS MUTTERINGS!

(Or: Not Only Is *DRACULA* Alive And Well—But He's Got Company!)

ITEM! This is it! The month when we finally spread the word about the *fourth* and *final* one of our creepy quartet of giant-size 75¢ comic-mags! Let's see now: We started out with DRACULA LIVES, which is already a sell-out sensation from coast to coast—we followed that up with the first smash issue of MONSTERS UNLEASHED—and then we hit you with a sinister sleeper called TALES OF THE ZOMBIE (which is still on sale, if you're unbelievably lucky!) And now it's time for—VAMPIRE TALES! That's right, monsterphile. For those of you who think there's naught can be done with the legend of the awesome Undead that wasn't already done by the creator of Count Dracula, macabre Marvel's here to show you that there is indeed something *new* under the sun—or moon, as the case may be! First off, in answer to more requests than we care to remember, we've signed up STEVE "Baby" GERBER and Titanic TOM SUTTON to help us launch a way-out new series about the mysterious man-bat called MORBIUS (and if you don't remember him from SPIDER-MAN—but you *do*, don't you!). What's more, that's just for openers—'cause there's lots more grisly goodies behind that breath-taking cover painting, including colorful features and a fear-photo spread that'll knock you right out of your coffin! It's not just an imitation of DRACULA—but a phantasmagorical new mag in its own right. That's VAMPIRE TALES #1—now on sale! Get it fast—before it turns into a bat and flies away!

ITEM! Now, unless you've been sealed in a crypt somewhere for the past few months, we're sure it comes as no surprise that the second issue of MONSTERS UNLEASHED is currently on sale, to boot! But, what *might* just move and shake you is the fact that, beginning this go-round, it spotlights a senses-staggering new serial starring THE MONSTER OF FRANKENSTEIN, picking up where our ever-fabulous color comic leaves off! And, when we clue you in that one of the other tales therein is called "The Roaches"—well, let's just say that this ish of MONSTERS UNLEASHED runs the gamut of gruesome goings-on, from A to *Zombie!*

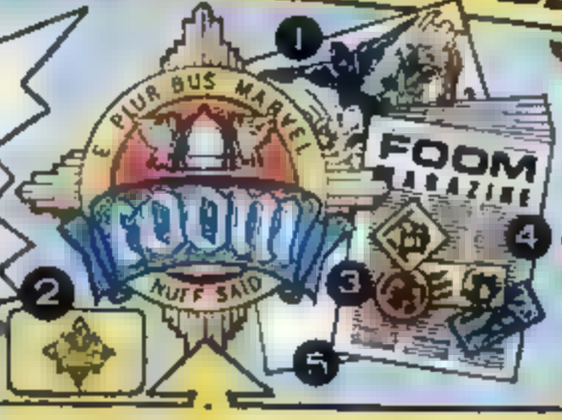
ITEM! Hey, guess what! Just 'cause we love ya, we've decided to make a heaping handful of our most popular *bi-monthly* titles into *monthlies* for the long hot summer coming up. Yep, that means there'll be a couple of extra issues of some of your favorites (like THE DEFENDERS—and MARVEL PREMIERE, with Dr. Strange) winging your way soon! So pick 'em up—but don't get confused, hear?

MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! Let's all give a hearty "welcome aboard" to Battlin' BOB BROWN, whom we've long respected as one of comicdom's most talented artists—and who's recently signed on to do THE AVENGERS and WARLOCK for us! • How about ol' Sunny JIM MOONEY, who's been just coasting along doing inking for us for years, and who's now really movin' out as the pearless penciler on many issues of Spidey's adventures in MARVEL TEAM-UP? 'Way to go, Jim-baby—we always knew you could do it, if you could tear yourself away from that antique shop of yours long enough! • And this seems like just the place to sneak in a ref or two to a couple of nifty *new features* that'll be debuting next month in one mag or another! All we can say for now is that one of 'em is called THE MARK OF SATAN—while the other stars a far-out gent called BROTHER VOODOO! Be here next issue—same time, same place—for full details! • Whew! You know, we may have more writers and artists than ever—and we know that sometime a few more boo-boos and bonehead mistakes slip thru our over-worked fingers than we care to admit—but it still fills the whole blamed Bullpen with boundless enthusiasm and just a wee bit of beaming pride every month, when we each get our very own stack of the current crop of Marvel mags! Face it, friends and fellahim—we're *all* comic-fans at heart. And isn't that the way it *should* be?

FOOM!

FRIENDS OF OL' MARVEL!

FOOM! THE WILDEST, WACKIEST, MOST WAY-OUT IDEA SINCE HONEST IRV FORBUSH COMBED HIS HAIR WITH A PENCIL SHARPENER! IT'S BOLDER, BIGGER, BETTER THAN THE MMMS AND MARVELMANIA PUT TOGETHER — AND WHAT'S MORE, IT'S GONNA BE RUN BY ALL OF US MERRY MARVEL MADMEN OURSELVES! STAN (THE MAN) LEE IS HEAD FOOMER! JAUNTY JIM STERANKO IS MINISTER OF INFOOMATION! AND RASCALLY ROY THOMAS AND YOUR OTHER BULLPEN BIGGIES WILL BE SHARING THE FUN! BUT THE REAL BENEFICIARY OF ALL THESE GALVANIZIN' GOODIES IS GONNA BE — YOU!



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ONLY $2.50 INCLUDING POSTAGE & HANDLING

MORE MIRTH-INDUCING MEMORABILIA FROM MEMO-MINDED MARVEL!

(Or: SAVAGE TALES Is Alive And Well And Living In A Suburb Outside Cimmeria!)

ITEM! You begged for it — you pleaded for it — at times, you even *demanded* it! And now, at last, it's back — bigger and better than ever! That's SAVAGE TALES, perhaps the most clamorously-requested giant-size magazine of all! And, when mighty Marvel finally brings back a title (after more than two long years!), leave it to us to do it right! Feature attraction, of course, is exactly what you *hoped* it would be: an all-new, all-great feature-length CONAN extravaganza by Messrs. ROY THOMAS and BARRY SMITH, under whom our swash-buckling Cimmerian rose to stratospheric heights in the dizzy world of comic-books — now even greater than before in illustrated magazine form! And that's just for starters! Verily, a host of halcyon *surprises* await thee as well, in the pages of SAVAGE TALES #2 — only 75¢ for 76 big pages — now on sale at last, wherever magazines are displayed!

ITEM! But, don't get that little happening mixed up with still another epochal event from Marvel — as summer of 1973 heralds the return of our ever-lovin', muchly-missed *Annuals* (or *Specials*, or whatever we called 'em last time around). There'll be no less than three over-sized opuses winging your way in the long hot weeks to come, as your Bullpen brain-trust re-presents some of the most magnificent adventures ever of SPIDER-MAN, FANTASTIC FOUR, and CONAN THE BARBARIAN! All yours for just 35¢, true believer, so get 'em while they last — which won't be long!

ITEM! Now, we *could* go on to tell you that DRACULA LIVES #3 is also on sale right now, starring the Lord of the Living Dead in a trio of timeless sagas — or that TALES OF THE ZOMBIE #2 is likewise looming in your path, as the Man Without A Soul rises from the grave once more. But, our awesome *ads* elsewhere in our frantic-mags will take care of that little matter. What we wanted to mention next is a forthcoming publication from mixed-up Marvel that *might* sound a wee bit like a reprint — but take it from us, it *ain't*! That's the wild, way-out m sh-mash we call *CRAZY Magazine*, a brand new 40¢ sock-it-to-'em sensation that's destined to take the waiting world by storm! It features perfidious parody, scathing satire, and laugh-a-minute lampoons that'll hit you where you live — and kick the *Establishment* where it sits down! With art and scripts by some of the world's greatest wits — including a special surprise or two you'll have to see to believe! That's *CRAZY Magazine #1*! Watch for it on magazine racks everywhere, just about any day now. As Honest Irv Forbush (or somebody) once ad-libbed: "'Nuff said!"

ITEM! And here's a *final* scoop just pulled off by the batty Bullpen! We've just revived one of our most popular titles of the sizzlin' 60's — a little thing called STRANGE TALES — and used it to usher in the eerie adventures of perhaps the most unique superhero ever! We call him — BROTHER VOODOO! You'll call him — *sensational*! That's STRANGE TALES #169, now on sale — and well worth the five-year wait!

Now, if we may, we'd like to get serious for just a moment.

This is the Bulletin item we hoped we'd never have to write.

Bill Everett, creator of the Sub-Mariner and a host of other great comic-book heroes, passed away on February 27th last. Bill was known and loved by just about everyone in the comics world, and was respected as few of his peers are respected.

Rather than launch any lengthy eulogies here — something Bill wouldn't have wanted, in any case — we'd prefer simply to refer you to the pages of SUB-MARINER #65, now on sale, in which a final and well-earned tribute is paid to this most important of Marvel talents . . . this most kindly, most generous of men.

We sorta think that's where Bill would most have liked to be remembered.

FOOM!

FRIENDS OF OL' MARVEL!

FOOM! THE WILDEST, WACK-EST, MOST WAY OUT IDEA SINCE HONEST IRV FORBUSH COMBED HIS HAIR WITH A PENCIL SHARPENER! IT'S BOLDER, BIGGER, BETTER THAN THE MMMS AND MARVELMANIA PUT TOGETHER — AND WHAT'S MORE, IT'S GONNA BE RUN BY ALL OF US MERRY MARVEL MADMEN OURSELVES! STAN (THE MAN) LEE IS HEAD FOOMER! JAUNTY JIM STERANKO IS MINISTER OF INFOOMATION! AND RASCALLY ROY THOMAS AND YOUR OTHER BULLPEN BIGGIES WILL BE SHARING THE FUN! BUT THE REAL BENEFICIARY OF ALL THESE GALVANIZIN' GOODIES IS GONNA BE — YOU!

MAIL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

FOOM, BOX 1527
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

I'VE NO CONSCIENCE. I'M WILLING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU BIG-HEARTED BOOBS. SO HERE'S MY MEASLY $2.50. RUSH MY BIG BARGAIN FOOM MEMBERSHIP KIT IMMEDIATELY TO:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PLEASE PRINT, EARLY

AND HERE'S WHAT YOU GET AS SOON AS YOU JOIN THE FRANTIC FELLOWSHIP OF FOOM! (1) A GIANT SIZE FULL-COLOR POSTER, FEATURING OUR GREATEST, GRANDEST HEROES. (2) YOUR OWN PERSONAL GOLD-LINKED MEMBERSHIP CARD — SO YOU CAN BE A CARD-CARRYING FOOMER. (3) A FESTIVAL OF FRANALY FRIVOLOUS STICK-ONS! (4) PLUS — AND HERE'S THE BICKER — A FULL YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO OUR FANTASTIC NEW FOOM MAGAZINE, AVAILABLE ONLY TO FOOM MEMBERS AND JAMMED FULL OF COMICS, PHOTOS, ADVANCE NEW ITEMS AND MORE FABULOUS FEATURES THAN YOU CAN WIGGLE A WEB AT! (5) P.S. YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES WHEN YOU SEE THE SPECIAL SURPRISE ENVELOPE THAT'LL BE BEHOLDIN' IT ALL YOUR WAY!

ONLY $2.50 INCLUDING POSTAGE & HANDLING

A PERSONAL PLEA FROM YOUR BLUSHIN' BULLPEN:

Hey, amigo—

Wanna have your name eternally stored in our mighty Marvel time capsule? Wanna go down in history as a permanent part of Marveldom Assembled? Most of all — wanna do us a favor?

You know how we selflessly strive to bring you the best in story and art. Well, to help us really hit the target, we've got to know who you are—where you are—what you are!

So, how about filling out the mildly magniloquent **mini-survey** printed below? We made it as painless as possible. Then mail it to the national research firm we've hired to impartially analyze all your answers. Okay? Okay!

Remember—everything you tell us is strictly confidential. You don't even have to sign your name—even if you have one!

Spidey thanks you. The Hulk thanks you. And I thank you.

Stan Lee

MARVEL COMICS SURVEY

1. I got this comic at a . . .

- ☐ Supermarket or chain store
- ☐ Newsstand
- ☐ Gift Shop — Stationery Store
- ☐ Drugstore
- ☐ From a friend (or enemy)
- ☐ Other (fill in) _____

2. How many comics do you buy a month? (Please circle)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 or more

3. What did you do with your free time last week?

- ☐ Watched TV
- ☐ Read a magazine
- ☐ Listened to records
- ☐ Read a book
- ☐ Went to a movie
- ☐ Played sports
- ☐ Read a paperback book
- ☐ Read a comic magazine

your copy of this comic? (Please circle)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 or more

5. How many others (besides yourself) will also read this comic after you have finished reading it?

	Inside Your Household or Dorm	*Outside Your Household*
Parents or other adults	_____	_____
Brothers or Sisters	_____	_____
Friends	_____	_____

6. Do you read the advertisements in this comic?

Yes ☐ No ☐

7. Do you buy things advertised in comics?

Yes ☐ No ☐

8. Which of the following activities do you engage in? (Check as many as you do)

- ☐ Baseball
- ☐ Basketball
- ☐ Fishing
- ☐ Bicycling
- ☐ Camping
- ☐ Tennis
- ☐ Football
- ☐ Play a musical instrument — Which one(s)? _____

9a. How many cars or motorcycles does your family have? (Please check)

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 or more ☐ None ☐

b. Please indicate the year and make.

Year	*Make*
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

10. Do you have a driver's license?

11. Your age: _____

12. Your sex: Male ☐ Female ☐

13a. Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Yes ☐ No ☐

b. If "Yes," how old are they?

Brothers (Age) _____ _____ _____

Sisters (Age) _____ _____ _____

14. What grade of school are you in?

School	*Year (Please circle)*				
College	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	graduated
High School	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	graduated
Grade School (Indicate year) _____					

CITY: _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Thanks, loyal one. Consider thyself no-prized! And now - -

MAIL YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE TO: MARVEL COMICS
c/o MARK CLEMENTS RESEARCH, INC.
Suite 606, 516 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10036

DIETETIC DOODLINGS AND DIZZY DISPATCHES DESIGNED TO DELIGHT!

(Or: Just The Son Of Satan And Me — And Satana Makes Three!)

ITEM! You might've guessed — and probably did — that when mirthful Marvel finally produced a full-scale parody mag, we'd do it with a vengeance! And we have! On July 10th, the first far-out issue of our brand-new CRAZY *Magazine* goes on sale — headlining some of the biggest, brightest names in the humor field! We'll let you dig the full details on our awe-inspiring *ad* elsewhere in this issue (it was specially designed by MARV WOLFMAN, who's been helping STAN and ROY get it all together) — but we can't resist telling you that, just for the heck of it, a bunch of our Bullpen biggies couldn't resist turning Hollywood on us and posing for a host of gagged-up photos therein! Why not try an ish, effendi? That's CRAZY — just 40¢ for 52 big pages, wherever magazines are displayed!

ITEM! This month likewise heralds the mind-bending beginning of a startling new series we call THE SON OF SATAN. This one not only picks up where GHOST RIDER left off in the pages of MARVEL SPOTLIGHT, but guest-stars our supernatural cyclist just for good measure. Sneak a peak at what Groovy GARY FRIEDRICH and Happy HERB TRIMPE are layin' down — and see if you don't find Daimon Hellstrom, THE SON OF SATAN, one of the most phantasmagorical new Marvel creations of all!

ITEM! Make way for — SATANA! That's right — our Son of Satan hero-vi-lain is barely out of the brimstone bag, and already he's sporting a sinister (but beautiful) *sister!* Strictly speaking, she's the Devil's Daughter, not a full-fledged kissing cousin of Count Dracula, but nonetheless she'll be bat-winging it your way in the second great issue of VAMPIRE TALES, now on sale (as is the third big ish of MONSTERS UNLEASHED, for that matter). Who knows? Between Satana and the macabre Morbius, VAMPIRE TALES may just give our smash DRACULA LIVES title a run for its blood-money!

ITEM! Looks like it's cross-over time at mixed-up Marvel! Try these tantalizin' tidb ts on for size: • Remember the android called the Recorder, from THOR? Well, he's more enigmatic and eerie than ever in the pages of WARLOCK — now on sale! • Meanwhile, Kraven the Hunter (let's see now — what mag was that he appeared in, again?) stalks DAREDEVIL in the nighted streets of San Francisco, and one Dr. Spectrum (formerly of AVENGERS infamy) is trying for revenge on IRON MAN! • All this, plus a titanic clash between wall-crawling SPIDER-MAN and the savage SUBMARINER in the current ish of MARVEL TEAM-UP, oughtta keep a few heads spinning till next time!

ITEM! Oh yes — we almost forgot! We want to apologize for accidentally misleading a few of you in a recent Bullpen Bulletins, when we mistakenly reported the cover price of our new HAUNT OF HORROR digest-size magazine at 60¢ instead of the correct 75¢. We mixed it up for a moment with MONSTER MADNESS — which itself has just added fifteen coppers to its price and a bunch of pages to its format, to become (under Roy and our hard-working new recruit TONY ISABELLA) a bigger bargain than ever! If you don't believe us, pick up our fabulous fourth issue — which zeroes in on none other than the immortal KING KONG — and see what we mean!

ITEM! A reminder that SAVAGE TALES #2 should still be on sale, if you're living right! This one features work by the likes of THOMAS, SMITH, BUSCEMA KANE, BRUNNER, and top comic-strip illustrator AL WILLIAMSON. Matter of fact, Roy and Jeanie Thomas just paid a whirlwind weekend visit to Al's rural retreat especially to line up some of the finest action sketches you'd ever want to see — just to decorate the pages of SAVAGE TALES, which may just be the supreme achievement yet in the cataclysmic career of CONAN THE BARBARIAN. 'Nuff said?

ITEM! Didja notice we just ran out of room? Oh, you did, huh? Oh well . . . See ya *next* time, Marvelite!

FOOM!

FRIENDS OF OL' MARVEL!

FOOM! The most fabulous, fun-filled fan club since Doctor Doom organized the Villains Interested in Latvian Etchings! It's bolder, bigger, better than the MMMS and Marvelmania put together — and what's more, it's gonna be run by all of us merry Marvel madmen ourselves! Stan (the Man) Lee is Head Foomer. Jaunty Jim Steranko is Minister of InFOOMation! And Rascally Roy Thomas and your other Bullpen stalwarts will be sharing the fun! But the *real* beneficiary of all these bounteous boons is gonna be — you!

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I've no conscience! I'm willing to take you kind-hearted clowns for all you're worth! So here's my measly **$2.50** — rush my FOOM membership kit immediately to,

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CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

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New York residents add sales tax. Canadian and foreign orders add 75¢ for postage.

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CAPRICIOUS COMMENTARIES, CAREFULLY COOKED UP TO CONFUSE AND CONFOUND YOU!

(Or, Just When You Least Expected It—The Mighty Marvel Checklist's Back In Town!)

ITEM! Know what, friend and neighbor? It's been a good summer—at least from mirthful Marvel's point of view! What with presenting the fifth and sixth of our giant-sized mags to the waiting world (that's SAVAGE TALES and something called CRAZY Magazine, for those of you who haven't been counting), plus the birth of such super-stars as Brother Voodoo (in the pages of the new STRANGE TALES), the Son of Satan (in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT), and Satana (in VAMPIRE TALES #2)—not to mention a couple of regular series at least for the ever-lovin' blue-eyed Thing (in MARVEL FEATURE) and the long-suffering Black Panther (in JUNGLE ACTION, no less)—we sorta feels it's been a mighty Marvel summer all the way!

ITEM! Lest you suspect, however, that Marvel's brain-trust intend to start hibernating come the fall, this might be the place to clue you in that the next few weeks will see the dynamic debut of a new comic-mag called—FU MANCHU. Not only that, but this most famous of mystic menaces has a son these days—an awesome offspring who's mastered the martial arts of Judo, karate—and *kung fu*! More details next time around, culture-lovers!

MARVELOUS MARVEL MINI-ITEMS: Wait'll you catch the great AVENGERS/DEFENDERS free-for-all now going on in the pages of *both* these best-selling titles! When scripter STEVE ENGLEHART plans a knock-down drag-out, he does it up right—and SAL BUSCEMA and BOB BROWN are right in there to keep the action coming! • We're expecting big things, likewise, from the great new team of ROY THOMAS and MIKE PLOOG in the pages of KULL THE DESTROYER! That's right—King Kull's mag has a *new* name—and when you pick up a copy, you'll see why! • Hey, don't miss the dramatic changes, too, in our sensational SUB-MARINER book! If you thought there was nothing new under the sea that could happen to Namor after so many moons on the scene—check out the next few issues and learn how wrong a Keeper of the Flame can be! • Oh yes, and for those vociferous zillions of you who've been clamoring for it, our chortle-filled *Checklist* returns this selfsame month! And so, without further ado about anything—

MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
Color Comics Now On Sale!

FANTASTIC FOUR #140: The return of Annihilus—plus more of the startling secret of Franklin B. Richards! A must!

SPIDER-MAN #126: Remember the high-stepping Kangaroo? Well, Spidey'd better—or he'll never live long enough to take a refresher course!

Plus these ready-made classics:

THOR #217 (The Colonizers *return*—and they're not alone!)—**HULK #169—AVENGERS #117** (The Vision vs. the Silver Surfer!)—**TOMB OF DRACULA #14—HERO FOR HIRE #15** (When Big Ben strikes—watch out, Luke Cage!)—**CAPTAIN AMERICA & THE FALCON #167—DAREDEVIL #105—CONAN THE BARBARIAN #32** ("Flame Winds of Lost Khitai!")—**SUB-MARINER #67—IRON MAN #64—FEAR #18** (The Man-Thing prowls the swamps again!)—**WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #11—WORLDS UNKNOWN #4** ("Arena"—Fred Brown's immortal sci-fi thriller!)—**GHOST RIDER #3—MARVEL TEAM-UP #15** (Spidey meets Ghost Rider! 'Nuff said?)—**AMAZING ADVENTURES #21** (The War of the Worlds goes on!)—**THE DEFENDERS #10—MARVEL FEATURE #12** (Ben Grimm takes on Iron Man, no less!)—**CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #26** (Thongor, Warrior of Sunken Lemuria!)—**CAPTAIN MARVEL #29—WESTERN TEAM-UP #1** (a newie co-starring the Rawhide Kid and—guess who!)—**KULL THE DESTROYER #11—SGT. FURY #116—STRANGE TALES #171** (Brother Voodoo—the Man Who Lived Twice!)—**JUNGLE ACTION #7**—and maybe a mag or two (or twelve) we've forgotten to mention!

Excelsior, effendi!

FOOM!
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FOOM! The most fabulous, fun-filled fan club since Doctor Doom organized the Villains Interested in Latvian Etchings! It's bolder, bigger, better than the MMMS and Marvelmania put together—and what's more, it's gonna be run by all of us merry Marvel madmen ourselves! Stan (the Man) Lee is Head Foomer! Jaunty Jim Steranko is Minister of InFOOMation! And Rascally Roy Thomas and your other Bullpen stalwarts will be sharing the fun! But the *real* beneficiary of all these bounteous boons is gonna be—you!

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MONUMENTAL MEMORANDUMS OF MICE AND MARVELDOM!

ITEM! It had to happen! The *Martial Arts* are coming to mind-boggling Marvel, so step up and shake hands with *Shang-Chi*—MASTER OF KUNG FU. You'll thrill to the non-stop action (scripted by Stainless STEVE ENGLEHART and drawn by Judo JIM STARLIN) as our newest, most unique hero ever lashes out with fists and feet of fury—while those of you who prefer a bit of super-villainy with your Martial Arts will be stunned to know that young *Shang-Chi* is the steel-fisted son of none other than Fu Manchu, perhaps the most infamous mastermind in the history of evil! So look out, Caine—move over, Bruce Lee—'cause *Shang-Chi*, MASTER OF KUNG FU is coming your way on September 18th! *Hai!*

ITEM! We've a couple of other new mags debuting this go-round, too, for those of you who simply can't get enough of our macabre mystery-type thrillers. Don't miss your collectors'-item editions of a trio of winners called UNCANNY TALES, THE DEAD OF NIGHT, and WEIRD WONDER TALES! The latter, incidentally, features startling sagas of a more science-fiction nature, drawn by some of comicdom's finest! Read 'em and reap, pilgrim!

ITEM! Hey, here's a special aside to all our college readers—and, to judge from our mail, just about every college joe and co-ed in the land must be into Marvel. Anyway, here's the bit: If your college bookstore isn't carrying the latest Marvel masterworks, let us know pronto by dropping us a line c/o CIRCULATION DEPT., Marvel Comics Group, 575 Madison Ave., NYC NY 10022. Help that bookstore of yours shape up, okay? After all, we wouldn't wantcha to be culturally deprived!

ITEM! Looks like the whole world's goin' crazy! CRAZY Magazine, that is! Editor MARV WOLFMAN got busy on the phone the other day, and now issue #2 spotlights a heaping handful of satire by none other than ART BUCHWALD, one of America's most famous humorists—in addition to potent parody by some of the world's wittiest artists and writers! Want proof? Then dig our special Back-To-School ish. That's CRAZY #2, now on sale—wherever mirthful magazines are sold!

ITEM! Well, we predicted it—and you verily, it has come to pass! In other words, it looks like our far-out FOOM Club is gonna be a bigger hit than the good ol' MMMS and Marvelmania combined—and this one's here to stay, people! Every day brings a veritable mountain of mail singing the praises of all the goodies you get when you sign up—and if you don't believe us, just peruse some of our lettin' letters pages, where we're printed the most colorful of the lot! Meanwhile, Jaunty JIM STERANKO—our Minister of InFOOMation—is already shipping out the third big issue of our very own FOOM Magazine to each and every member, and this one is replete with the first of a zingy new set of Secret Codes which so many of you—young and old—have requested! The very first cipher is our SPIDER-MAN CODE, and here's a cryptic message about an upcoming Marvel event which is definitely F.O.O.M. (For Only Our Members)! To wit:

HSGMDUB RIWFB SNFG
OFIG DJ JSNFHMFG.

Captain Midnight, eat your heart out!

Bad news, it seems, never travels alone.

Only two months ago, this space told of the demise of our friend and co-worker, Bill Everett. And now, we regret to announce the untimely passing of another all-time great comic artist, SYD SHORES, on Sunday, June 3, 1973.

Syd has been known for his fine work over the years, most notably on *Captain America* in the 1940's, and on *Red Wolf* and many other strips in more recent years. A fuller word will appear in the fourth issue of *Monsters Unleashed*, where Syd's last work will appear.

Meanwhile, suffice it to say that he was a real talent . . . and he'll be missed.

MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

DRACULA LIVES #4: Vampire vs. vampire—on the haunted back-lots of Hollywood! Plus—the Blood-Countess of Transylvania! Just 75¢!

TALES OF THE ZOMBIE #3: Simon Garth, the Man Without a Soul, faces the Ritual of Death! Timeless tales of Voodoo Vengeance! 76 big pages!

SAVAGE TALES #3: Conan strikes again—in the city that time forgot! Plus an epic Red Sonja adventure! The greatest fantasy bargain ever, at 75¢!

CRAZY #2: Special Back-To-School ish! And even Harrison High was never as freaked-out as Marvel's newest laugh-riot! Just 40¢, cheapskate!

Plus these full-color fantasies:

FANTASTIC FOUR #141: (The End of Annihilus—and more!)—SPIDER-MAN #127 (The Vulture soars again!)—THOR #218—HULK #170—AVENGERS #118 (Guest-starring the dynamic Defenders—in full force!)—TOMB OF DRACULA #15—HERO FOR HIRE #16—CAPTAIN AMERICA & THE FALCON #168 (What is the secret of the man called Phoenix?)—DAREDEVIL #106 (With four of DD's deadliest foes!)—CONAN THE BARBARIAN #33—FEAR #19 (The Man-Thing—what else?)—WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #11 (The Hangman strikes!)—GHOST RIDER #4—IRON MAN #65—MARVEL TEAM-UP #16 (Spidey meets Captain Marvel—'nuff said!)—THE DEFENDERS #11—DOC SAVAGE #8 ("The Brand of the Werewolf")—ASTONISHING TALES #21 (Ka-Zar and Zabo—together again!)—MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE #1 (Iron Man and Captain America, no less!)—MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #13 (The full, fantastic origin of the Son of Satan! A must!)—a nifty newie called MASTER OF KUNG FU—and a horde of literary landmarks!

Collect 'em all!

THE ULTIMATE FAN CLUB!

E PLURIBUS MARVEL
FOOM
NUFF SAID

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FOOM CHRIS CHARLEY

JUST THOMAS AND LEE — AND THE SOAPBOX MAKES THREE!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Notice anything different about your latest Marvel mags? Notice more space devoted to the Bullpen Bulletins? How about the larger Letters Pages — and the fact that we have fewer titles on sale than a few months ago? Yea verily, listen to the voice of Marveldom Assembled — to the cry of far-flung Foomdom — all shouting why? *Why?* WHY? *And*, since you asked —

During this past year, as most of you have noticed, the spreading fame and growth of Marvel have been almost unbelievable. We've outsold every other comic-book publisher in America, and throughout the world! But the more titles we gave you, the more you kept demanding. And the more you asked for, the more we tried to give you. Until, just a short time ago, we realized we had to stop and catch our breath. For, in our never-ending effort to satisfy the greatest, most loyal legion of fans anyone ever had, we were in danger of sacrificing quality for quantity — and we're just not about to do that!

We also suspected that we were making it kind'a tough for those of you who were short of cash (and who isn't?) to keep up with our profusion of proliferating titles. Even though Marvel's majestic mags are vital necessities to every True Believer, we wouldn't want you to give up such frivolous luxuries as food or housing in order to keep up with us. In other words, we decided to make it easier on your wallet, at the same time as we make it easier for us to polish and perfect every gleaming jewel in the Marvel crown of creativity!

And that's the reason you won't have to BEWARE THE CLAWS OF THE CAT for a while, and NIGHT NURSE has broken her appointment. Yep, we've reluctantly given vacations to a few of our secondary characters in order to devote more time and effort to our world-famous line of scintillatin' superstars! So fret ye not, O Seeker of the Truth — all thy favorites are alive and well in Marvelland, whilst our sensational 75¢ thrillers also still await thee at thy local vendor, and culture doth reign supreme!

But, take warning! We're gonna spend lots more time rapping with you from now on, both here and on our Mighty Letters Pages. You can expect to be bombarded with all kinds of messages, memos, and multi-faceted madness from Yours Truly, from Rascally Roy, and from the rest of your blushin' Bullpenners as we go zoomin' along to oblivion! Yea, mark ye well these momentous words — we've only one objective, one ever-constant goal — to jam as much fun and excitement as possible within these imperishable pages — and to share it all with you!

Excelsior!

ITEM! Don't ask us—we'll tell you! The reason why our latest giant-sized 75¢ magazines (not to mention our CRAZY new-title) have been switched to quarterly publication is in line with what Smiley was mentioning above: we want to keep up the quality of these mags while we're waiting to gauge the full, unfettered reaction of Marveldom Assembled. That's why SAVAGE TALES and CRAZY are on sale this month instead of last, as originally planned. You'll find 'em both worth the wait, though — what with a 37-page Conan classic illustrated by BARRY SMITH in the former, and the humor of ART BUCHWALD, KELLY FREAS, BOB ("Myron Moose") FOSTER et al. in the latter! But don't worry, those of you with money to burn — they'll both be on bimonthly schedules again, just as soon as we can get our heads on straight! (Although, knowing us, that probably gives you plenty of time to start saving your pennies!)

ITEM! Meanwhile, one of the full-color comics we've dropped from our schedule — but only for the next couple of months — is the very popular SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS. We've decided to put all our eerie adaptations in our giant-sized mags instead. As for the new feature which SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS will contain when it returns a few short weeks from now — well, let's give it to you in *Spider-Man Code*:

LSUXE YSU MFXDFNT — RQF NOVR-DHB SO EGIVUXI!

Now, all you Foomers out there (and if you're not yet a member of FOOM, there's a coupon on the right that'll end all your worries) can dig out your De-Coding Kit — featured in the latest issue of FOOM Magazine — and you'll be way ahead of the game when it comes to knowing just what the batty Bullpen is planning! Matter of fact, you'll even be ahead of Stan the Man himself — 'cause he left his De-Coder in his other superhero suit!

ITEM! In just a short month or so, we'll be doing what you frantic ones have requested — namely, turning this page entirely over to the Bullpen Bulletins, with the kind of informal chit-chat and nifty news items you've always dug most! In the meantime, what say we drop the Mighty Marvel Checklist for this month only, and concentrate instead on a few personal tidbits about the Bullpen That Plays for Fun — like so:

MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! Congrats to HERB and LINDA, on the birth of their spanking-new son and prospective future Bullpenner, ALEXANDER SPURLOCK TRIMPE! He's the only thing that's come between Happy Herbie and a HULK deadline in the last umpteen years! • Hey, if you dig the recent spectaculars by JIM STARLIN (on CAPTAIN MARVEL and MASTER OF KUNG FU) as much as we do, then let's have a few kudos also for Amiable AL MILGROM, our latest inking discovery, who's been skillfully applying the pen-and-brush to those power-packed pencil-strokes of Jim's! • In answer to countless queries: Yes, the GLYNIS WEIN who does that sensational coloring in so many Marvel masterworks these days is indeed the lovely wife of one LEN WEIN. And, so help us, if your next question is "So who's Len Wein...?" • Know what? RICH BUCKLER tells us that his dream for well-nigh a decade as a comic-book fan was to get a chance, one day, to draw the fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR title! And he's made it at last! So let the lad know how you like what he's layin' down, okay? Tell 'im Roy sent you . . .

— R.T.

THE ULTIMATE FAN CLUB!

FRIENDS OF OL' MARVEL!

FOOM! You've been reading about it for months! Okay, so it's time for you to stop reading and join up already! Here's what you get for your ten measly quarters.

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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

This one's for you older Marvelites, for the True Believers who've been with us lo these many years. Remember how we used to rap about the fact that so many people thought comic-books were just for kids? And remember how I'd clue you in to Marvel's greatest crusade — to your Bullpen's vow to change that image — to give the comic-book its rightful place within the media — to have it fully accepted as one of the most powerful, most viable forms of communication the world has ever known? Remember how we'd pledge never to rest till the intellectual community bestowed upon the comic-book all the attention and the recognition it has so rightfully earned?

Well, I guess you know what I'm leading up to. We may not yet be all the way home, but we're mighty close. Never before have so many newspapermen, disc jockeys, college students, musicians, sports figures, and other assorted full-grown adult types been so fanatically tuned-in to the wondrous world of Marvel! Never before have we received such massive mountains of mail from so many campuses throughout the free world! In fact, within the past few months alone, yours truly just finished a whirlwind college lecture tour, speaking at Iowa State, Bennington College, Allegheny, Montana State, the University of Delaware, and Northwestern U., just to name a few. Never have I seen more enthusiasm, more excitement, or more ebullient interest — interest in the stories, the illustrations, the conception — everything in fact that has to do with the production and the philosophy of your friendly neighborhood Marvel mags!

So, on behalf of your breathless, blushin' Bullpen, let me thank each and every one of you for helping us make a dream come true. Yea verily, you and we together have transformed yesterday's feckless little "funny books" into one of today's most widely-hailed art forms — and Marvel loves ya for it!

[illegible]

Stan

P.S. Please spare our poor little overworked secretary. If there's any campus I may have bypassed, send your lecture request directly to American Program Bureau, 850 Boylston St., Chestnut Hill, Boston, Mass. 02167. They just love to open mail!

S.L.

ITEM! All right, sahib — it's teaser *time!* See if you can guess just what this thing is, smack dab in the middle of our bombastic Bulletin Page (besides a picture of the ever-incredible *Hulk*, that is) — and why we stuck it there, anyhow!

Sorry, we can't let the cat (or ol' Greenskin) out of the bag till *next issue* — but at that time, we promise you a zingier bargain than you ever saw on "Let's Make a Deal"! And while you're waiting, why not send us your guesses as to what it is! Who knows? Even if you don't figure out quite what we're planning to lay on you come Christmastime, you're just liable to give us some far-out new ideas we never thought of!

ITEM! Oh, and lest we forget: Here's this month's immortal message about an upcoming epochal event in one of our mags. It's in our very own Spider-Man Code, and it goes like this:

RQF ILFBSHFXY UJDTUF
EFIRQ SO LIGXSVW — VSHDJP
BSSJ DJ RQF QUXW!

By the way, in case you're wondering why we've been using Spidey Code for the past few months, it's because that's the only one revealed to date in the pages of our special FOOM Magazine, which is sent out as an extra bonus to everybody who joins the wildest, wayoutest fan club in comics history. But, more codes are coming up fast, 'cause even as we speak, jaunty JIM STERANKO is putting the finishing touches on our *fourth* fabulous issue.

If you're not yet a member of FOOM — why fool yourself? You're gonna join up sooner or later anyway, once the word gets back to you on what you're missing! Why not make it sooner — 'cause the way our ranks are filling up, there sure aren't gonna be any back issues of FOOM Magazine available for long! A word to the wise . . . !

ITEM! Starting next month: A *full page* of Bullpen Bulletins — *plus* a brand-new Bullpen Bonus Page, with nutty items about our giant 75¢ titles, eye catching new FOOM ads and items — and just about anything else that catches our fancy! 'Nuff said!

MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Now On Sale!

MONSTERS UNLEASHED #4: The Frankenstein Monster! Warrior of Mars! Plus — the Demon That Stalked Slaughter Mansion! Only 75¢!

VAMPIRE TALES #3: Morbius lives again! Satana, the Devil's Daughter, by Conway and Marotel Just 75¢!

Plus these full-color classics:

FANTASTIC FOUR #143 (You demanded it — we did it! Dr. Doom strikes again!) — **SPIDER-MAN #129** (Meet the Jackal — and the deadly Punisher!) — **THOR #220** — **AVENGERS #120** (The return of Zodiac—the Sinister Team Supreme!) — **TOMB OF DRACULA #17** — **INCREDIBLE HULK #172** (And Canst Thou Slay — the Juggernaut!) — **CAPTAIN AMERICA & THE FALCON #170** — **POWER MAN #17** (Luke Cage — superhero for hire!) — **MAN-THING #2** — **IRON MAN #66** (Guest-starring the mighty Thor!) — **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #35** — **WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #14** — **MARVEL TEAM-UP #18** (Spidey and — wouldja believe — Mr. Fantastic!) — **SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION #17** (Shang-Chi, Master of Kung Fu! Marvel's newest sensation!) — **GHOST RIDER #4** ("Death Stalks the Demolition Derby!") — **THE DEFENDERS #12**—**MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #14** (The Son of Satan, as you've never seen him before!) — **STRANGE TALES #172** — **ASTONISHING TALES #22** ("It — the Colossus Lives Again! ").

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BLOCKBUSTIN' BULLPEN BONUS PAGE

MARVEL'S MERRY CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO YOU!

You *know* it, neighbor! In our regular Bulletins section, elsewhere in this issue, we promised you a *whole 'nother page* of Marvel madness and munificence. And here it is!

From now on, we'll be using this space to herald the latest developments (both personal and professional) in our giant-sized 75¢ line, which is taking comicdom by storm—in our cockeyed CRAZY Magazine, which is gonna give the Humor Establishment a run for its money—in our far-out FOOM Club, which is already one of our biggest smashes ever (but you ain't seen *nuthin'* yet, folks)—in short, in just about *every* field of Marvel endeavor that we think would move and shake you!

Meanwhile, for our very *first* Bullpen Bonus Page:

Remember how, last month, we promised to reveal unto you the Senses-Shattering Secret behind the pic of the Incredible Hulk that appears below? Well, Marvel always keeps its word—when we remember what we said, anyhow.

What it *is*, friends, is a *stamp*.

And not just *any* run-of-the-mill, lick-it-and-stick-it-on-a-postcard stamp, but the fabulous forerunner of a whole herd of—are you ready for this?—

That's right! From now on, one of these glitzy mini-posters—each featuring a different Marvel star or starlet—will appear in virtually every one of our mixed-up original-material mags—and in many of our collectors'-item reprints, to boot!

Now, we don't want to reveal *everything* about these way-out stamps right off the bat.

For instance, we'll keep you on pins and needles a few weeks longer about what those nutty *numbers* mean in the upper corner of each stamp—or *why* you ought to keep 'em safe and secure, like the family jewels. Just rest assured that it'll be worth your while—and a heaping handful of *fun*, besides!

Oh, and before you ask — from our earliest mail-samples, it seems that just about everybody on the planet guessed that our perforated-edged portrait was meant to be a stamp of some kind. Inscrutable we'll never be!

Anyway, to see if the mag you're now reading contains a stamp to match the one on this page, why not flip over to the letters section! If the mag doesn't *have* a letters section, then maybe it'll be squirreled away somewhere else in the issue—or maybe this is one of very few mags we haven't got around to yet! (But by *next* month, just watch our smoke, O frantic follower of foolishness and frivolity!)

Right now, here's our irrepressible, irreplaceable, irremedial checklist——!

MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

•FANTASTIC FOUR #144: (The showdown with Doc Doom!)—SPIDER-MAN #130 (Hammerhead's back in town!)—THOR #221 (And so is Hercules! 'Nuff said!) — AVENGERS #121 — INCREDIBLE HULK #173 (Anybody out there remember—the Cobalt Man?) — TOMB OF DRACULA #18 — CAPTAIN AMERICA & THE FALCON #171 (The Falcon gets his wings!)—WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #15—MAN-THING #3 (Enter the Foo Kliarl His name's a bit bizarre—but he's no laughing matter!) — KA-ZAR #2 — MARVEL TEAM-UP #19 (The Human Torch vs. the Hulk, no less!) — DAREDEVIL #108 — CONAN THE BARBARIAN #36 — SUB-MARINER #69 (with surprise cameos by Spidey and Doc Strange!)—MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #2 (The Thing and Namor — together again, and at each other's throats!) — CAPTAIN MARVEL #31 — MARVEL PREMIERE #14 (Dr. Strange — at the Dawn of Creation!) — CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #28 (Thongor strikes again!) — JUNGLE ACTION #9 (The Black Panther! Baron Macabre! The Death Regiments!) — SGT. FURY #118 — AMAZING ADVENTURES #23 (The War of the Worlds goes on — in our nation's capital!) — plus maybe a classic or two we forgot to mention!

Buy 'em anyway, huh? See you next ish, people!

THE ULTIMATE FAN CLUB

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FRIENDS OF OL' MARVEL

FOOM! It gave you more in '73—and it's still alive in '74!

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FOOM! The name of the wildest Fan-Magazine ever—already in its fourth phantasmagorical issue, with more to come!

FOOM! Say it loud—say it proud!

FOOM! When you join, you learn the **SPIDER-MAN CODE**, and others already in the works—you receive a giant 20" x 28" Superhero-Poster by Jaunty **JIM STERANKO** himself—you get a fistful of sensational **STICK-ONS** of your *favorite* Marvel stars—a gold-finished **MEMBERSHIP CARD**—and it all comes to you in a special Surprise Envelope that'll make your postman squint sideways at you for months to come!

Matter of fact, the several-issue *subscription* to **FOOM** Magazine alone is well worth the price, since you'll learn **ADVANCE NEWS ITEMS** about the latest Marvel masterpieces—you'll see rhapsodic **ADVANCE REPRODUCTIONS** of our epoch-making *covers*—you'll learn undreamed-of **SECRETS BEHIND MARVEL**—all this, and more, in each issue!

To sum up: We think it might be singularly to your advantage to invest two bills and some change to become officially what you already are in fact: a **FRIEND OF OL' MARVEL!**

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CHRISTMAS CHRONICLES AND YULETIDE YUCKS —AND A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Well, gang, it's that time of year again—when our thoughts turn to Joyeuse Noel and Auld Acquaintances! So what better time for your friendly neighborhood soapboxer to extend his salubrious Season's Greetings to one and all—and thereby save the price of some cards!

Merry Xmas to our WRITERS!
May their tales be ever great!
Merry Xmas to our EDITORS!
May their deadlines ne'er be late!
Merry Xmas to our ARTISTS!
May their pencils never bust!
Merry Xmas to our INKERS!
May their penpoints never rust!
Merry Xmas to our COLORISTS!
May their hues be ever bright!
Merry Xmas to our LETTERERS!
May their spelling turn out right!
Merry Xmas to our PRINTERS!
May their presses never cease!
Merry Xmas to our ENGRAVERS!
May the unions grant them peace!
Merry Xmas to our DISTRIBUTORS!
May his sales be ever growing!
And to YOU the merriest wish of all—
You're the one who keeps us going!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Hey—remember how Marvel added all those 20¢ and 75¢ titles in '72 and '73? And how this sometimes forced us to use a big chunk of our Bulletin Page for special announcements of all our new plans and projects? And how a few of you used to take us to task for neglecting all the *personal chit-chat* and *inside gossip* that made you feel you really *knew* the guys and gals who turn out all those Marvel masterworks each month? Well, we'll let you in on a secret: We missed all that personal stuff as much as you did! So, starting now—and without abandoning our search for ever-newer horizons to conquer in the name of Marveldom Assembled—we're returning this page to all its former, much-lauded glory, *and* adding a new *Bullpen Bonus Page*, to boot! (You'll find it elsewhere in this same ish.) That's right, believer—now, you'll get two full pages of news and views each month (*three*, if you count our liltin' letters pages)! And, for those of you who are counting: Nope, we *haven't* dropped any pages of art and story, just a *paid ad* which took up that space last month—and this in spite of ever-rising printing costs and that depressing paper shortage you've been reading about (often, we might add, in *newspapers* with fewer pages). So now who says mighty Marvel isn't the Company with a Heart?

ITEM! A thousand thanks to those of you who've said you dig our cockamamey Secret Code messages. And here's another clue for you all—concerning a fantastic *new feature* we'll be unveiling early in '74! Yep, it's in *Spider-Man Code*, which can only be deciphered by card-carrying members of FOOM (see ad on our Bullpen Bonus Page) *or* by those with cryptographic skills worthy of the CIA. Anyway, here goes:

Sorry—all we can show you of our future super-star right now is the above tantalizing *head-shot*. But, if that doesn't whet your appetite for the *full-color pin-up* we'll be layin' on you come the New Year—then you just got *no soul*, sahib!

ITEM! Now that the Yuletide Season is upon us, maybe it's time we finally broke down and told you how some of our free-wheeling, high-stepping Bullpenners spent their *summer vacations*—namely, by going to *Comic Art Conventions* in just about every major city on the map! First, there was the granddaddy of 'em all, the New York con, where just about everybody who was anybody in the nutty comics biz was in attendence. Next, Rascally ROY THOMAS slipped his editorial reins for a few days and zipped down to New Orleans' famed French Quarter, where he dropped in on a combined science-fiction and comic-book confab. No sooner did Roy return to his work-bestrewn desk, than Marvelous MARV WOLFMAN dumped the latest issue of CRAZY Magazine in his lap to proofread and scooted off (with his buddy Live-It-Up LEN WEIN) to Toronto, Canada, for a comics-con *there*. And, somewhere along the line, TONY (The Tiger) ISABELLA was a special guest at a con back in his old stomping-grounds in Cleveland; while Mischievous MIKE FRIEDRICH (along with Nefarious NEAL ADAMS) fell by San Diego's annual comics clambake. Last time we looked, just for good measure, Bashful BARRY SMITH had just been named Guest of Honor at the Detroit Triple Fan Fair, and was packing his bag for a trip to Motown. Talk about your Busman's Holidays! Oh well—at least now the guys won't be insulted any more if they hear somebody refer to them as Con Men!

ITEM! Speaking of movin' and groovin', it seems that everybody is—*moving*, that is! With all the birds winging it *south* for the winter, a number of Marvel Bullpenners are heading west and will be sending in their sketches and scripts *long-distance* from now on. Even as we speak, Stainless STEVE ENGLEHART is trekking, typewriter in hand, to take up residence in San Francisco, as the aforementioned Mike Friedrich did a year or so back. And, when Steve arrives, his swingin' new *'cycle* will be there waiting for him, courtesy of Judo JIM STARLIN, who polished off the latest CAPTAIN MARVEL and MASTER OF KUNG FU issues, then did the Westward Ho bit on Steve's new wheels. (With Steve's permission, of course. He'll do *anything* to keep a good artist happy!) What's more, last we heard, Far-Out FRANK BRUNNER and Groovy GARY FRIEDRICH (who's been dwelling in his own native Missouri of late) were all set to join the S.F. contingent as well. And the ultimate *winner* in this game of Musical Moving-Vans is just likely to be you, Marvel-booster—'cause these forays will doubtless result in renewed enthusiasm and energy being channeled into our opulent opuses. And friend, there's *nobody* in the comic-book game who throws himself, heart and soul, into his work any more than a Marvel madman—whether you're talking about Bullpen East or Bullpen West! No *hype* there, effendi—just plain hard *fact!*

ITEM! By the way, to round out our *San Francisco Special*, we can't resist mentioning that—in answer to a multitude of requests from those of you who'd come to miss *Foggy Nelson* and the rest of the former DAREDEVIL supporting stars—we've shipped The Man Without Fear back to Fun City for a few issues. Meet a crop of old friends—and maybe make a few new super-enemies—by picking up DD #108. (Hmmm . . . do you suppose that ol' Fearless' return to the Big Apple has anything to do with the fact that writer STEVE GERBER and artist BOB BROWN still reside in the New York area? Oh well. . . .)

ITEM! Some of you demanded it! A couple of you deplored it in advance! But we did it anyway! Jack Russell: WEREWOLF BY NIGHT, enters THE TOMB OF DRACULA—and the King of Vampires returns the favor in Wolfy's own mag—in this month's issues. But, you probably know that by now anyway, since those two mags (along with a sinister sleeper called THE MAN-THING) have become some of Marvel's biggest new hits!

See you next ish, people

PRESENTING—ANOTHER BOMBASTICALLY BUCOLIC BULLPEN BONUS PAGE!

VALUE, VALUE—WHO'S GOT THE VALUE?

Last time around, we first introduced our mighty MARVEL VALUE STAMPS to a breathlessly waiting world.

Now *this* month, it's finally time to *explain* the furshlugginer things!

What it is: We're now including one of these colorful MVS goodies in virtually every one of our multitudinous mags that has a *letters page*. There'll be an even *hundred* of them in Series "A," which covers calendar year 1974, starting with #1 (your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man, who else?) and winding up with #100, which sports a dynamic likeness of none other than—well, we'll let you guess till *next* time just *whose* mug will replace that mystery-shrouded *question mark* when the coveted #100 Stamp finally appears!

All we can tell you about it right now is that, although some of our Stamps will appear much more often than others, MVS #100 will be absolutely, positively the *rarest* one of 'em all, popping up in only *one* Marvel title during the whole blamed year!

(No, no, Suspicious One—it won't be sneaked into one of our western re-runs or *any* of our rhapsodic reprints, but will be featured prominently in one of our awesome *all-original* epics over the next few months. If you miss it, or one of the others which you need to complete your collection—you can always do a bit of *swapping* and *trading* with your fellow Marvel madmen who might have been luckier, right?)

And now the $64,000 question: Once you've got all 100 Stamps, what do you do with them? We call 'em MARVEL VALUE STAMPS, after all—so where's the value?

Well, part of the future value of the whole collection is obvious. For instance, in the next month or three, we'll be offering you an *MVS Stamp Album* virtually at cost, so that you can paste in all of them and have a complete set—which is bound to become a *real* collector's item in the years to come. (After all, didja know that FANTASTIC FOUR #1 is now selling for up to $50 in many back-issue comic-book stores across the nation, and that SPIDEY #1 isn't far behind?)

But, that's only a *long-range* forecast. For those of you who'd like to see some benefits *before* you grow a long white beard, we can't say any more just now—but we solemnly promise that, even as these words are written, we're already in the process of lining up some *immediate* rewards you can reap when you've amassed a complete set. So, you'll not only have the frolic and fun of collecting the full 100 MVS mini-masterpieces, but—at least for many of you—it'll mean money in your pocket, to boot!

How's *that* for a grabber?

We also pledge a *fuller* explanation of this all-important point over the next few issues—verily, we swear and affirm it by the mile-long Adam's-apple of Reed Richards!

So keep on clippin' and collectin', pilgrim!

By the time summer rolls around, virtually all *100* MARVEL VALUE STAMPS will have appeared in our litlin' letters pages, or in some other designated spot—

—And that's when the fun *really* begins!

P.S.: Special thanks to Jazzy Johnny Romita, Mirthful Marie Severin, and Titanic Tony Mortellaro for digging up the spiffiest bunch of superhero drawings since George Washington first said "Cheese!"

FROM THE VALLEY OF THE (HO! HO! HO!) MARVEL GIANTS!

It's true! It's true! Our new mammoth-sized 75¢ mags are taking the world by storm! And no wonder! For one thing, last time we looked, they sported a full *eight pages more* than most of our major competitors' titles; for another, they feature a panorama of fear-filled photos from the greatest monster movies of all time. All this, plus art and story by some of the Bullpen's spookiest ghost-writers!

In fact, these mags are such a labor of love to produce that, in order to pore over each issue the way we really want to, we had to knock 'em all down to mere quarterly schedules for a while. But now, they're all *bimonthly* again!

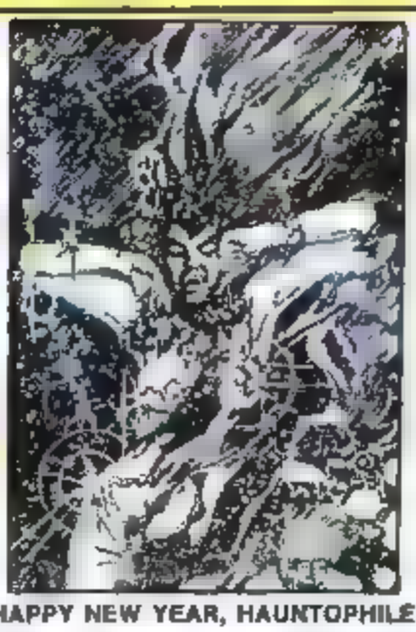
That's right—as of now, you can pick up DRACULA LIVES, MONSTERS UNLEASHED, VAMPIRE TALES, and TALES OF THE ZOMBIE six times a year at your local nefarious newsstand. And CRAZY—the 40¢ humor-mag that dared to be dumb—will be on sale *seven* times a year, just to confuse and confound you!

What's more, in a couple of months we plan to launch *two more* jumbo-sized spectaculars—and, though they're on the top-secret list right now, we frankly think the very *names* of our two upcoming masterworks will knock you right out of your haunted castle!

Now, on to a pair of pulsating news-bits:

ITEM! The Crazy Crew tunes in "High Plains Drifter," "Last Tango in Paris," and "Soylent Green"—and tunes out "The Waltons"! Plus—"In Search of Ancient Auto-Nuts" and "The Rock'n'Rollin' Stone"! **CRAZY #3**—on sale Jan. 31

ITEM! They're coming! The Snow Vampires! And they're not alone—for Satana, the Devil's Daughter, and Morbius the Living Vampire are right behind 'em! All this and more, in **VAMPIRE TALES #4**, on sale Jan. 29!



HAPPY NEW YEAR, HAUNTOPHILE!

HOMILIES, HIJINX, AND HAPPY NEW YEAR —FROM THE HALLOWED HALLS OF MARVEL!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Well, here it is — the start of a brand new year for all of us! It's the perfect time to clue you in on some of the fabulous, far-out projects in store for you from mighty Marvel, where wonders never cease — and where the future has never looked more exciting!

We don't have to tell you what a smash sensation our Spider-Man medallion coins have been — you're probably wearing one right now! But that's only the beginning! Every other product manufacturer seems to be discovering Marvel at the same time. So, in the coming year you'll be seeing more of our swingin' superhero gizmos than you can shake a spider-web at! But, that's just for starters — !

Even as I pen yon momentous monograph, Marvel's vast, worldwide network of legal experts (okay, so it's one over-worked lawyer with a scratchy pen) is in the process of signing a contract with one of America's largest and most famous book-publishing companies to do a series of hard-cover books about — you guessed it — your favorite Marvel masterworks! We'll tell you more in coming issues, and we hoodwink thee not — it'll herald a whole new world of reading excitement for all Marveldom Assembled — even for the few heretics who still may be at large!

Naturally, FOOM is still growing by leaps and bounds. Your batty Bullpen has just scheduled a special meeting to vote on all the new goodies and surprises in store for the Friends Of Ol' Marvel, may their luster never dim! And of course one of our zingiest new sensations is the Value Stamp project we've just begun — which Rascally Roy will discuss with you in living color — if I ever leave him enough space!

Since no mere mortal can bear too much mind-staggering munificence, I'll merely hint at some other dynamite developments to come. Wouldja believe a full-length feature film about some of our cataclysmic characters? And how about the two top TV producers who are making us an offer we can hardly refuse? And, we've gotta admit we're still sneakily working on plans for new, earth-shaking characters and concepts in our ever-growing line of Marvel comics and mags. So watch your newsstand, watch these pages, and watch out for enemy agents! We mustn't let a word of this reach the competition!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Sheesh! It's January again — and it seems like only yesterday that the whole batty Bullpen were auld-lang-syning each other at New Year's parties all over Manhattan, the Bronx, and Staten Island too. Anyhow, just for the heck of it, we thought you might wanna see some of the *New Year's Resolutions* dreamed up by our nutty artists and writers for 1974. So here goes — !

Merry GERRY CONWAY resolves he'll take the time to memorize the agreement of all Asgardian pronouns and verbs. (He's got no choice! Rascally Roy stamped 'em all over Mr. C's forehead!)

Macabre MIKE PLOOG vows to make his new project, the Man-Thing, as horribly hairy and hellishly heinous as his Werewolf, Ghost Rider, and Frankenstein Monster put together.

RICH (Swash) BUCKLER pledges to make the Fantastic Four even more popular than it already is. (And you know something? The lad just might make it!)

Jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA swears he'll sneak away from his post as art director long enough to actually draw a Spider-Man saga or two, just for old times' sake.

STEVE (Baby) GERBER and Battlin' BOB BROWN jointly avow that they will both figure out every one of the gimmicks in Daredevil's billy-club before 1975 rolls around — they hope!

Big JOHN BUSCEMA promises to remember that a right-handed Barbarian wears his sword on his *left* side, not on his right.

Sibling SAL B. claims he'll get a new compass to help him draw those difficult, painstaking stripes on Captain America's shield.

Marvelous MARV WOLFMAN and Gentleman GENE COLAN affirm that they'll invent at least three unique and previously untried ways for Count Dracula to die! (Lotsa luck, fellas!)

Rascally ROY THOMAS declares that this year Conan will definitely go thru one whole issue without once referring to his Cimmerian god Crom. Or, if not this year, then maybe the next — !

And Smilin' STAN LEE, our publishing potentate, swears that this'll be positively the last year he lets his ever-lovin' editor make up New Year's Resolutions for the whole blamed Bullpen!

But now, onward — !

ITEM! We need a *breather*, people — honest! So many of you have been sending in for your full-fledged FOOM kits and all the other Marvel-type merchandise we've been offering you, that we've got to discontinue our ads for 'em for the next few weeks, just long enough to get caught up on all the mountains of mail that're piling up! That's just by way of letting you know that, if you're one of the few Marvelites who haven't yet signed up for membership in our FOOM fan club, you'll get your chance an ish or two from now. A word to the wise . . . !

ITEM! And now, in closing, here's our mirthful message in SPIDER-MAN CODE for the merry month of January — to warm the cockles of your heart with news of a Marvel longtimer who'll be getting his very own series in the months to come. Like so:

NFVZM NZBOOFV GTDODVQO —
BY OFV, QMD BZV-KFWE!

Ponder over that little tidbit for a while, Straight Arrow!

MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
Now On Sale!

SPIDER-MAN #131 (Aunt May marries — Dr. Octopus?) — FANTASTIC FOUR #145 — THOR #222 (Thor and Hercules vs. Ares and Pluto!) — HULK #174 — MASTER OF KUNG FU #17 — TOMB OF DRACULA #19 (Snowbound in Hell!) — AVENGERS #122 — CAPTAIN AMERICA #172 (The Howl of the Banshee!) — WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #16 (Enter the Hunchback!) — MAN-THING #4 — CONAN THE BARBARIAN #37 (The Curse of the Golden Skull!) — GHOST RIDER #5 — POWER MAN #18 — IRON MAN #67 (The Fury of the Freak!) — FEAR #21 (Morbius the Living Vampire!) — MARVEL TEAM-UP #20 (Spidey and Black Panther!) — KULL THE DESTROYER #13 (The Fiend in the Flames!) — STRANGE TALES #173 (Brother Voodoo!) — ASTONISHING TALES #23 (It vs. Granitor — and Fin Fang Foom!) — WORLDS UNKNOWN #6 ("Kil'dozer!" Theodore Sturgeon's greatest!) — Plus a Cornucopia of Colorful Comic Book Classics!

THIS IS POWER!

THIS IS
IRON FIST!
COMING IN FEBRUARY,
IN MARVEL PREMIERE!

A FEW SURPRISES—A SMATTERING OF SURMISES —AND A HINT ABOUT PRIZES!

ROY'S ROSTRUM

Sorry, people, but no STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX this time, 'cause Our Fearless Leader is out of town. Matter of fact, he's leapfroggin' all over *Europe*, but, more of that from The Man himself, soon as he recovers from jet lag!

Meanwhile, I thought this would be a good chance to answer one of the myriad questions which is asked in numerous letters every day: namely just who is the editorial staff of Marvel Comics, anyway?

Well, besides STAN and myself (who manage to keep busy, what with one thing and another), there's Marvalous MARV WOLFMAN, who — in addition to being Editor of our newest smash hit, CRAZY Magazine — basks in the title of Associate Editor. Right about now, Marv is spending virtually his full workday, and then some, on CRAZY and on our popular line of giant-sized mags, including our spanking-new biggie, THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU — of which more on our Bullpen Bonus Page!

As to our ever-enchanting color comics, they're mostly proofread and pondered over by Dutiful DON McGREGOR and our newest nabob, Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH, who just blew in from the Windy City! These two lads are classified officially as Assistant Editors — but they and Marv shoulder enough responsibilities to give Atlas a backache!

Oh yes — and we don't wanna forget Cute GARLA JOSEPH, who doubles as my secretary and as proofreader of our letters pages and reprints, in addition to a thousand-and-one other tasks that need doing!

And wouldja believe — with all those editorial types running around, the work keeps piling up!

Fact is, that's why our hard-working writers receive billing as Contributing Editors, as well: Marry GERRY CONWAY, who scripts several of our top mags each month; STEVE (Baby) GERBER, who labors over our letters pages, in addition to his other chores; Live-It-Up LEN WEIN, TONY (The Tiger) ISABELLA, and even such faraway stalwarts as Stainless STEVE ENGLEHART and Mischievous MIKE FRIEDRICH.

Pardon me for getting all dewy-eyed, but I truly don't believe that any editor in comics history was ever lucky enough to have assembled such a team of talented typewriter titans!

Now, if I could only persuade a guy named LEE to pound that battered old Remington of his, now and then — I'd have it made!

Salud!

Roy

ITEM! Here's an off the wall flash! You've doubtless heard of the block bustin' new movie, THE GOLDEN VOYAGE OF SINBAD, now making the rounds at your local cinema. Well, only a few short weeks from now, by special arrangement with Columbia Pictures, mirthful Marvel will present its own full-color version of that instant film classic! See the movie — read the comic-mag — and if there aren't any bubble-gum cards to collect, don't blame us!

ITEM! Just a brief aside to thank those of you who rushed us the first Brobdingnagian batch of mail we've received on our mighty MARVEL VALUE STAMPS! It seems that, without really knowing it, half of Marveldom Assembled has been just waiting for something like this! And, by next month, we promise to clue you in on the first (but not the last) of several Bonus Benefits you can obtain once you've amassed a full collection of the first hundred stamps! Till then — keep those scissors well-oiled, effendi!

MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! Congrats to GERRY CONWAY (also known in the trade as GERARD F. CONWAY) on his newest s-f opus, *Mindship*, due out as a paperback from DAW Books right about now! At age 21 and with two published books (plus a whole passel of short stories) to his credit, Ger's the envy of the whole blamed Bullpen! • Speaking of Mr. C., he's teamed up with a fair-to-middlin' artist named JOHN ROMITA on the latest SPIDER-MAN — and the result is just short of fantastic! The Jazzy One's been dying to draw an issue for months now, but his back-bending chores as Marvel's Art Director have kept him busy on covers and such! Anyway, you've been clamoring for more of J.R.'s work all along — so let the guy know you care! • We kinda think you'll dig the new penciller on MAN-THING: a fella name of MIKE PLOOG, who's drawn every Marvel monster from WEREWOLF to FRANKENSTEIN and back again! Keep it up, Michael, and maybe one of these days we'll see if you still remember how to draw a *human being*! • Hey, wanna know what one member of the Bullpen thinks happened to those missing Watergate tapes? Well then, sneak a peek at the latest "War of the Worlds" epic in AMAZING ADVENTURES, as Don McGregor and Happy HERB TRIMPE finally let the cat out of the bag! • We were gonna mention something here about Vulcanizin' VICENTE ALCAZAR, whose recent artwork in DRACULA LIVES, THONGOR, and elsewhere is already earning him a whole horde of fans — about how he came here to Fun City from his native Spain — about how Nefarious NEAL ADAMS sent him around to us — and how we don't intend to let him get away. But, now we look around and he's flown the coop back to Madrid for a few months to get things in order (all the while turning out collector's items by the barrelful). So we think we'll save our plug for when he moves fulltime to the U.S. of A., okay?

ITEM THE LAST! Closing note: Here's a message in our brand new Code, as featured in the 4th fabulous issue of FOOM Magazine, and thus decipherable only by accredited FOOM Members and selected FBI brass. It concerns still another 75¢ mag that'll be coming your way by the time spring rolls around, and we'll sock it to you in two short words:

LIDG ALZO!

There! Now who said we can't keep it short and sweet — especially when we're running out of room!

MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Color Mags Now On Sale!

FANTASTIC FOUR #146 ("Doomsday — at 200 Degrees Below!") — **SPIDER-MAN #132** (The Molten Man Returns!) — **THOR #223** — HULK (The Inhumans strike!) — **AVENGERS #123** — **TOMB OF DRACULA #20** (Man-hunt for a Vampire!) — **CAPTAIN AMERICA & THE FALCON #173** — **WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #17** (Two's a crowd — when they're both werewolves!) — **SUB-MARINER #70** — **MARVEL TEAM-UP #21** (Spider-Man, Dr. Strange, and the comeback of Xandu, the Unspeakable!) — **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #38** (The Warrior and the Were-Woman!) — **DAREDEVIL #109** — **MAN-THING #5** ("Night of the Laughing Dead!") — **DEFENDERS #13** — **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #3** (The ever-lovin' Thing — plus Daredevil!) — **KA-ZAR #3** (Man-Ape Into Man-God!) — **AMAZING ADVENTURES #24** — **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #15** (The Son of Satan vs. the Demon called Baphomet!) — **FRANKENSTEIN #10** — **CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #29** (Thongor, Warrior of the Lost Land!) — **JUNGLE ACTION #10** (The Black Panther vs. King Kamal! Plus — the very first sketch ever drawn of T'Challa!) — **SGT. FURY #119** — **MARVEL PREMIERE #15** (The Origin of Iron Fist!) — **CAPTAIN MARVEL #32** —

—And that doesn't count our 75¢ stunners! All this — just 'cause somebody out there liked **FANTASTIC FOUR #1!**

MONUMENTAL MEMOS OF CHILLERS, THRILLERS, AND FILLERS!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

If you happened to miss the ol' Soapbox last ish, it's because I was in sunny Italy and didn't return in time to write it. But don't think I deserted you, O True Believer! I was there on your behalf, and now that I'm back I'm just bustin' to tell you about the fun and excitement of the biggest comic-book convention of them all. About 200 miles south of Milan, in the beautiful, ancient city of Lucca they've been holding an annual comic-book congress for the past eight years. This year's Lucca 9 was the biggest yet. The whole town played host to writers and artists from all over the world. There were shows, panels, exhibits, and ceremonies lasting an entire week. Inside the main auditorium the seats were equipped with earphones through which you could hear translations of every speech in virtually every language. It was like being at the U.N., but lots more fun. And if those wild, warm, and wonderful Italians aren't the friendliest people around, then Thor bleaches his hair! But the thing that impressed me most—the thing I want you to know, is—in Europe comics are taken far more seriously by the adult population than in America. If you didn't know Lucca 9 was comic-book oriented you'd have thought it was a business convention. The adults, including the Mayor of Lucca himself, far outnumbered the youngsters in attendance. There were professors, businessmen, scientists, filmmakers, lawyers, and literally hundreds of other mature, serious fans deeply involved in one of the most popular art forms of all—the ubiquitous comic-strip! So here's to all of Marvel's fabulous friends in Lucca, and throughout the free world. So long as we strangers from different lands can come together in good will and mutual respect; so long as art can help to forge a lasting bond between people and nations; then so long shall there still be hope for an abiding peace upon this troubled earth.

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! We've lots of bombshells to explode this time around, so let's get rolling, shall we—?

ITEM! The big news this month — and we do mean big — is a fabulous pair of new mags sporting 52 great pages for just 35¢! That's right — our swingin' Summer of '73 Specials were such a rousing success, and so many of you requested more of the same, that we began work almost at once on a *regular* line of 35 cents titles. The only difference is these new titles will contain mostly new stories and art, plus a whole passle of bonus features such as pin-ups, interviews and more surprises than you can shake a Forbush at! The first of these mind benders has already been on sale for a few weeks now, the first far out issue of GIANT SIZE SUPER STARS, headlining the *Fantastic Four*, no less (with the ever-incredible Hulk as guest star)! As those of you who purchased this sell-out sensation already know, SUPER STARS is a monthly mag, featuring no less than three rotating series in the style of those Mystery Movies that've taken TV by storm. The F.F. led off the parade of course, and this month's second slam-bang issue heralds the much requested team-up of two of the most monstrous super-villains of all: Morbius the Living Vampire, and the menacing Man-Wolf (alias John Jameson), against none other than your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man! While the third ish, on sale in April, will star still another of Marvel's mightiest: *Conan the Barbarian!* Then, the whole cycle will start all over again with the F.F., Spidey, and Conan each appearing four times a year, in some of the most spectacular sagas ever recorded — we kid you not!

That's GIANT SIZE SUPER STARS still on sale — if you're lucky!

Got it? Okay, then you're all set for our next scoop —!

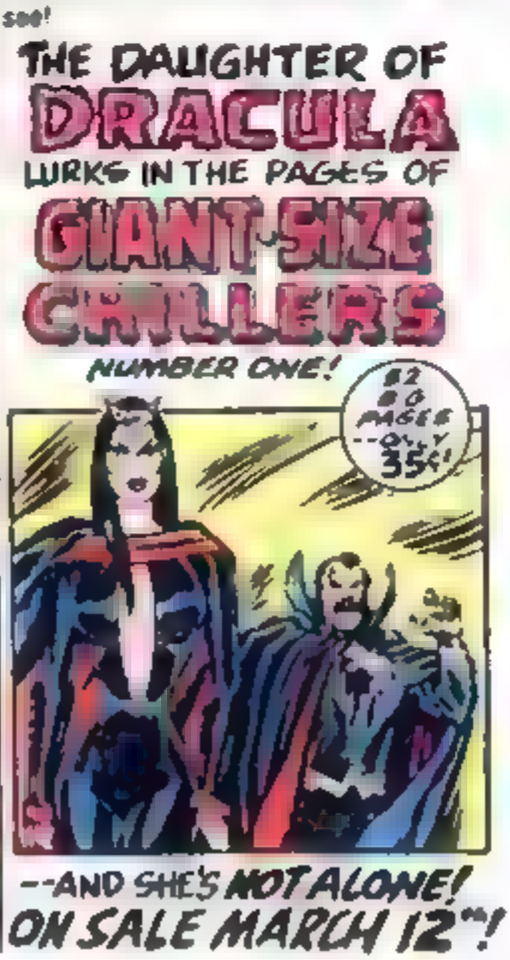
ITEM! Our second magnificent new 35¢ mag has a title nearly as mind-boggling as the first: it's GIANT SIZE CHILLERS, and it debuts March 12, starring (who else?) the one and only *Dracula* himself! But, this sinister series is called "The Curse of Dracula," and it'll be a wee bit different from the Lord of Vampires' other Marvel misadventures, for it'll deal mainly with those whose lives are touched by our blood-thirsting Count in some way, beginning with Dracula's very own daughter, as depicted on this self-same page! (Don't worry, though — our Transylvanian terror will appear prominently in each and every one of these tales!) And, since our new monthly CHILLERS mag has the same format as SUPER-STARS, Drac's new fear-fests will alternate with those of two other baneful new lights in the Marvel firmament, Werewolf by Night, and the macabre Man-Thing! All in GIANT-SIZE SUPER-CHILLERS!

Hope that's all clear, Flame-Keeper. Cause as of right now — you're on your own!

ITEM! And, sharing the limelight with these two blockbusters, have we got news for you! SAVAGE TALES is coming back for the third time — and this time, we're gonna go 'way out on a limb and predict that this most honored Marvel mag is here to stay! In fact, we're so sure of it that we've already scheduled it for bi-monthly publications, like our other 75¢ titles, with the first of the new series going on sale March 26! There'll be brand new, grand new Conan sagas by the likes of Barry Smith, John Buscema, Gil Kane, and Neal Adams — special items of interest to sword-and-sorcery swashbucklers the world over — plus a phantasmagorical new feature on the greatest fantasy films of all time! Now, if that isn't nuff said, we don't know what is!

ITEM! Whew! We've just room enough to tell you that a couple of other new series make their debut this month as well! One is *The Living Mummy*, who returns as the star of SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS, where he made his first foray a few months back. The other is *The Golem*, whose stomping grounds (and we mean just that!) will be STRANGE TALES. All this — plus an extra special issue of WORLDS UNKNOWN featuring an awesome adaptation of Columbia Pictures' new thriller, The Golden Voyage of Sinbad! Need we say it? It's the Marvel Age of Comics all over again!

ITEM! Due to a last-minute emergency we had to forego our widely acclaimed Bullpen Bonus Page this go-round. So we'll have to wait till next month to tell you all about the brain-blasting bargains that'll be yours when you've amassed a complete set of MARVEL VALUE STAMPS — or about some of the hectic hijinx which the World's Weirdest Bullpen have been up to — not to mention the return of our capricious Checklist! Next time though, we promise you two full pages of Marvel news and views! Just wait and see!



ANOTHER BONESHELL BULLPEN BONUS PAGE

All right, long-suffering ones — this is it! The month when we finally start to unravel, before your wondering eyes, just a *few* of the groovy goodies which can be yours once you've amassed a complete set of all 100 MARVEL VALUE STAMPS.

As everybody this side of Irv Forbush knows by now, one of these mighty mini-masterpieces appears in virtually each of our original-material mags, usually in our new two-page letters sections. Most MVS Stamps will pop up several times over the coming months — and, just to top it off, there's our mystery-shrouded *MVS #100*, which hasn't appeared yet and which'll be featured once and once *only*, in a mag we can't announce in advance.

We'll get around in a second to telling you what *special benefits* will soon be yours. But first —

Suppose for a moment you've already collected *all one hundred* MVS Stamps, okay? Now, you need something to put 'em in, right? Well, don't worry your tousled head, faithful one — 'cause miraculous Marvel will provide.

Fact is, we've already designed a super-spectacular MARVEL VALUE STAMPBOOK, which includes a separate space for each and every MVS Stamp, as well as selected illoes of some of Marvel's greatest heroes and villains. To receive your copy of this invaluable, irreplaceable Stampbook, simply fill out the coupon at the bottom of the page and send 50¢ for postage and handling, and it'll be winging its way to you by return mail.

What's more, each and every Stampbook will have its own special *number* — which'll be of ever-increasing importance as the weeks go by! Why? Don't ask — not yet, anyway. After all, we've gotta keep a few secrets for a while, don't we?

And that's not all: Just to make sure you feel you're getting your money's worth we're tossing in a SPECIAL BONUS POSTER, in full color, with each and every order! We can't tell you just what Marvel super-star it features, but take it from us — this is an offer you can't refuse!

* * *

Okay, so suppose it's a few short months from now, and you've got your Stampbook, with precisely one hundred MVS mini-posters pasted neatly into place. Now, besides just looking at it, and saving it for future generations to extol and admire, what else'll it get you?

Well, over the months to come, we've got a bunch of surprises up our sleeves, which we're just waiting to spring on you. But, here's the *first* benefit you may accrue, just to whet your appetite:

As you may already know, for the past nigh-decade, there have been colorful *Comic-Book Conventions* held all over the U.S.A. — as well as in Canada, England, and elsewhere — in fact, just 'about everywhere that the comic-mag itself is in vogue.

These fan-oriented conclaves — which feature panel-discussions on the comics, big-name guest stars, back-issue comics for sale, etc., etc., etc. — are generally held at fine hotels and over a several-day period, and thus usually cost several dollars for admission alone.

Well, just for starters, two of the largest and finest of these conventions (often called "cons," for short), both of which have been going concerns for some years now, have cheerfully volunteered to give *special discounts* on admission to every person who shows up with a completely-filled *MVS Stampbook*!

Don't worry, though — you won't have to surrender the prized Stampbook itself, after all your hard work. The friendly toll-takers at each con will simply stamp a pre-marked place in the book, and you'll be able to keep the book itself — so that you can use it another day, another way.

Here are the first two comicons to make this offer:

(1) Easily the number-one, most prestigious, most star-spangled of all is the *New York Comic Art Convention*, hosted each year by fearless Phil Seuling at a major hotel in Manhattan itself. As you doubtless know from past Bullpen Bulletins Pages, this New York con attracts many of the most talented titans of the comic-book (and comic-strip) field; in fact, it's safe to say that at least half of Marvel's editors, writers, and artists will turn up sooner or later at this con, which is held each year over the weekend closest to *July 4*. In '74 a couple of guys named Rascally ROY THOMAS and Jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA — ever hear of 'em? — will be among this convention's major guests, hosting panels and answering questions about everything in sight.

For fuller info about this con, including the amount of the special *MVS DISCOUNT*, just send a *stamped, self-addressed envelope* to:

Phil Seuling
Box 177
Coney Island Station
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11224

And, that brings us to —

(2) The star-studded *San Diego Comics Convention*, to be held in sunny Southern California later this summer. (See? Just 'cause Marvel's editorial offices are on the East Coast, that doesn't mean we've forgotten the rest of the country!) In addition to those Bullpenners and other comics pros who inhabit the western half of our fair land — including, for instance, Stainless STEVE ENGLEHART, Mischievous MIKE FRIEDRICH, Far-Out FRANK BRUNNER, and others — one of the San Diego Con's several Special Guests this year will be the selfsame ROY THOMAS listed above. Again, for the full scoop on this convention, including the *MVS DISCOUNT* and other dynamic details, just send a *stamped, self-addressed envelope* to:

Mr Shel Dorf
P O. Box 7531
San Diego, Ca. 92107

Got it? And, even as we pen these perishable words, we're busily lining up other cons, all across the nation, which in the coming year or so will offer MVS Discounts to everyone who presents a full MVS STAMPBOOK at the door.

* * *

Now, an aside for those of you who can't attend any comic-book conventions, either on the coasts or in between.

Next Bullpen Bonus Page, we'll be cluing you in on still another amazing extra that'll be yours when that spectacular Stampbook is full to overflowing. And we're racking our brains, every day, to dream up even *more* sensational surprises.

What's more, since you may have a few ideas and suggestions about things that Marvel could offer you without making you send in your treasured Stamp books themselves (which we know you'll want to keep and collect), we'd like to know about 'em. Just add your comments when you fill out the coupon below, all right?

Just one final reminder: Don't delay in sending for your Stampbook, if you're gonna take advantage of the conventions or the other dazzling discounts we'll be offering this summer and beyond. After all, it takes a short time to process your orders and for your specially-numbered copy to reach you by mail — and you don't wanna have to wait till '75 to jump on the bandwagon, do you?

We'll leave you with this deathless thought:

MARVEL VALUE STAMPS! Now, more than ever, "Value" is our middle name!

End of plug!

You win! These cockamamey MVS Stamps are fillin' up my whole house — and I've gotta have someplace to put 'em! Please rush me my MARVEL VALUE STAMPBOOK! I enclosed 50¢ in coin, to cover postage and handling, whatever that means! (And don't forget my FULL-COLOR BONUS POSTER, okey?)

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

(Please Print Clearly)

Send to
MARVEL VALUE STAMPBOOK
c/o Marvel Comics Group
575 Madison Ave.
N.Y.C., N.Y. 10022

MONUMENTAL MEMORANDA ABOUT MONSTER-SIZE MAGS!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

There's so much to tell I don't know where to begin! By now you must have heard about our great new Giant-Sized 35¢ comics — our fantastic new 60¢ Super-Sized series — our dynamite one-dollar Collectors' Treasury Editions — as well as the half-dozen sensational new black-and-white 75¢ers with which ol' Marvel is taking the world by storm! In the past few months we've brought superheroes to the peak of their popularity — made a world-wide cult of monster masterpieces — given fandom the greatest in sword-and-sorcery as well as magic, kung fu, and outasight science-fiction and supernatural chillers — and, believe it or not, we've only just begun! We've got whole brand-new series in the planning stages right now for older readers, for younger readers, even for readers who don't wanna read! As for our sensational TV and movie projects, I'll clue you in as soon as they're declassified top secret! But one thing remains to be done. Wouldja believe that FOOM has more than 25,000 members by now? There's never been such a blockbusting fan club in the history of comicdom! We've gotta do something to celebrate — we want to do more than send you those fabulous FOOM mags every three months — but we're too busy writing and drawing the galaxy's greatest strips to give it enough thought! So how about helping your shy, modest Bullpen buddies? Let's start another mildly magnificent Marvel No-Contest, and award the usual priceless No-Prizes to everyone sending us a usable suggestion about what to do to make FOOM even better than it is. We know it's tough to improve upon perfection, but Marveldom Assembled won't let us down! Remember, FOOM is your club, so don't just stand there. Send your awesome inspirations and idiotic ideas to THE VOICE OF FOOM, c/o Marvel Comics, 575 Madison Ave., NYC NY 10022 — and be grateful for the chance. After all, does The Pentagon ever ask you how to run the army? Also, be here without fail next ish because, if the Hulk doesn't lose his vitamin pills, I'll hit you with the most eagerly awaited announcement of the year — and that's on the level! Till then, fill your days with joy, your nights with peace, your life with love.

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! So you thought the biggest news to hit the comic-mag scene was our dramatic new line-up of 35¢ Giant-Size mags, eh? Well, close — but no cigar! 'Cause, starting now, we're adding still another species of monster-size masterworks to bedazzle you! Yep, we're talking about our sensational new 60¢ SUPER-GIANTS — a terrific trio of 100, page extravaganzas, each sporting a new, novel-length epic — more special features than you ever dreamed of — some of the mightiest Marvel classics ever — and each on sale four times a year! First and foremost of these is the SUPER-GIANT SPIDER-MAN, which is actually not simply a Spidey mag at all, but much more — in short, a bouncin' big brother to our regular-size MARVEL TEAM-UP hit! That's right — each issue of the SUPER-GIANT SPIDER-MAN will bring our wondrous wall-crawler face to face with still another of our ever-increasing array of stars. (Ish #1, in fact, spotlights the story you virtually dared us to print — as Spidey encounters the one and only COUNT DRACULA! How's that for openers?)

ITEM! What's more, the merry month of May will see the debut of the SUPER-GIANT AVENGERS, and in June we'll be bustin' out with a much-demanded SUPER-GIANT CONAN, a fit companion-mag to our smash 75-center, SAVAGE TALES. If you want more details on our SPIDEY Super-Giant, just feast your eyes on our awesome ads, scattered thru our various issues — but whatever you do, wherever you go, don't miss out on this collectors'-item first issue, or you'll regret it for years to come! We have spoken — so there!

ITEM! Like we said above, we'll let our ads (and the mags themselves) do most of our talking for us, but this month also heralds the premieres of two more 35¢ thrillers you've been waiting for. First, there's GIANT-SIZE CREATURES — and no, Irving, that doesn't mean that everyone in it is over ten feet tall. It's simply that each and every issue sports 52 big pages — and the star of CREATURES is a certain WEREWOLF BY NIGHT who's taken Marveldom and Monsterdom by storm. (And if our hairy anti-hero isn't enough for you, wait'll you meet Tigra, the Were-Woman, in that selfsame issue!) A couple of weeks later, there's GIANT-SIZE SUPER-TEAMS #1, starring the dynamic DEFENDERS, no less, to place alongside the two 35¢ blockbusters which star Spidey and the fabulous F.F.! Read 'em and enjoy, pilgrim — you've been waiting a long time for comic-mags like these — and so have we!

ITEM! Just for a breather from telling you about this month's new beggies, friends, howzabout we give you a hurried hint about a brand new feature which begins in May, okay? It's called DEATHLOK, THE DEMOLISHER — with a story concocted and drawn by RICH (Swash) BUCKLER, and dynamite dialogue by Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH. We haven't got room to preview Deathlok's awesome appearance, but take it from us, he's gonna shock, startle, and stupefy — starting in ASTONISHING TALES #25! And that's a promise!

MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! Here's a personal tid-bit or two we thought might be of interest: First off, let's give a harried hello to Lethal LARRY HAMA, who takes over as artist of our new IRON FIST feature in the current ish of MARVEL PREMIERE. Larry's knowledgeable in karate, kung fu, and the martial arts in general — so look out, Shang-Chi, competition's on the way! • Speaking of kung fu, we've gotta tell you how pleased we are with Peerless PAUL GULACY, who's taken over our much-heralded MASTER OF KUNG FU title now that Judo JIM STARLIN's devoting his full time to his own rendition of CAPTAIN MARVEL. Paul, like Valiant VAL MAYERIK and Crafty CRAIG RUSSELL before him, is a former protégé of Dapper DAN ADKINS — who's become a regular Talent Scout out there in the wilds of Ohio! • Another too-brief tip of the hat to Dauntless DON PERLIN, whose work on WEREWOLF BY NIGHT (in both its 25¢ and 35¢ incarnations) is winning him a whole legion of fans. (Who knows? A few of 'em might even be *human*!) • Whew! Looks like it's Welcome-Aboard Month, as Debonair DAVE COCKRUM returns to the fold as embellisher of the AVENGERS. Dave's work on the Mighty Ones a few months back was wildly hailed by Marveldom Assembled — and this time it looks like he's back to stay! • Add the above names to the roster of new young talents who are swiftly growing to Marvel-ous maturity, a list which already includes Affable AL MILGROM, (Santa) KLAUS JANSON, plus the other new lights we've discovered — or, more truthfully, who've discovered us, since we're nothing without 'em — and you've got at least a part of the reason why the 1970's are gonna be the Marvel Age of Comics all over again!

A SPECIAL PULSATIN' P.S. FROM YOUR BLUSHIN' BULLPEN! Uip! We had so much inside info to toss at you this month that we've squeezed our invaluable Checklist right off the page! So look for it this month in — — you guessed it — — the letters section of most of our much-lauded mags! 'Nuff said!

Till next time — keep 'em flyin', effendi!

OF MIX-UPS, MONSTERS, AND MATRIMONY!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Remember last ish? Remember the promise I made you? I said I'd hit you with the most eagerly-awaited announcement of the year, right? Well, you've probably guessed it by now, 'cause we've been mentioning it and hinting at it for months. I'm talking, natch, about our most important single publication—the one you've been clamoring for all these years! It's not a magazine, but a real, honest-to-Forbush *book*—destined to become the most prized best-seller of the decade! The title tells you the whole bit—THE ORIGIN OF MARVEL COMICS! It's a prestige library edition, published by Simon and Schuster, scheduled to go on sale in bookstores throughout the free world some time in October! We're not sure of the price yet, but it won't be cheap—so start saving your shekels, sahib. It's bigger than 200 pages, containing the unabridged origins of The Fantastic Four, Spidey, The Hulk, and more, more, more—handsomely printed in rich, full, glorious color! Also, not only does it contain the most anxiously-awaited strips of all time, but you'll also find page after page of behind-the-scenes bombshells, giving you the real, uncensored scoop on how Marvel Comics was born! Every page is dynamite—and every word is true! I oughta know—I'm the guy who wrote it! It names names and spares no punches. THE ORIGIN OF MARVEL COMICS—on sale this fall! If you've a bad memory, don't worry about it. There's always the chance that we'll remind you again in the next few months. (Like on every other page!) Oh, and before I forget—let me toss a word of appreciation to the wonderful gang at Worcester Polytech University in Massachusetts for the rollicking reception they gave me a few weeks ago. I couldn't tell if they were applauding my speech or stompin' to keep warm, but it was a blast no matter what! And now, till we meet again, think peace—think love—think Marvel. It could be habit-forming.

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Special last-minute announcement! Our 35¢ and 60¢ mags have gone the way of all flesh! In other words, we're discontinuing 'em! But, before you gulp that cyanide pill, friend, let us hasten to clue you in—we're just switching all our over-sized epics to one size, one price: just 50¢ for 68 big pages, with a feature-length 30-page *all-new* spectacular in almost every one of our nine Giant-Size titles. Confused? Well, for the full fabulous details, you'll have to pick up this month's GIANT-SIZE SPIDER-MAN #1 (co-starring DRACULA, who else?) — GIANT-SIZE DEFENDERS #1, GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS #1, or whatever else we happen to toss atcha. Then, you'll know at least as much about this dramatic change-over as we do — and take it from us, that ain't much, effendi!

ITEM! This is it! The month when we present a dynamic *new feature*, which starts in the current issue of ASTONISHING TALES, now on sale. First, though, that fabled picture-worth-a-thousand-words

Okay, now that you've taken a gander at what our newest, maybe most offbeat hero yet *looks* like, we'll fill you in: He's DEATHLOK, THE DEMOLISHER — and he's part cyborg, part superhero, and maybe just a touch of monster, all rolled up into one pulsating package by RICH (Swash) BUCKLER, who conceived and drew the awesome origin tale, and Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH, who supplied some of the most unique scripting we've seen in a month of Mondays! Quite frankly, we think Deathlok's gonna take the waiting world by storm — and that's no hype! Pick up ASTONISHING TALES #25, and see for yourself why 1974 is already being heralded as THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS — PHASE TWO! We're shifting into high gear, troops — but we're not going anyplace without you!

ITEM! Hey, guess what! Looking over our ever-frenetic schedule, we just noticed that this is the first time in many moons that we're not introducing any new mags — with the exception of a couple of 50¢ extravaganzas, and if you don't count one Deathlok, the Demolisher — which, now that we think of it, doesn't leave us exactly standing still! Fact is, we're just slowing down to catch our breath for a little while, as we consolidate our line of 25¢ and 50¢ color comics — our 75¢ magazine masterpieces — our 40¢ CRAZY fun-fest — that forthcoming Marvel Origins Book that Smiley told you about earlier — and a couple of other projects we can't even mention yet (mainly 'cause right now we can't remember what they are). But, a few short weeks from now, don't be too surprised if it turns out we had another inspiration or three up our sleeve, hear?

MARVELOUS MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! Wedding bells are waking up that Bullpen Gang of ours! First, over the Christmas holidays, it was Marriage-Minded MURRAY FRIEDMAN, our hard-working Assistant Production Manager who specializes in our 75¢ mags, to his lovely ADRIENNE (who, weirdly enough, is a former Hunter College lab partner of Rascally ROY'S own wife, JEAN. • • Then, come January, Merry GERRY CONWAY took a couple of days off from his superhero scripting to tie the connubial knot with Cute CARLA JOSEPH, Roy's super-secretary and general Gal Friday. Between Ger, who writes several of our mags a month (plus occasional science-fiction paperbacks, including a forthcoming series or two), and Carla, who's an off-Broadway playwright in between her many Marvel chores, we've got a feeling that the Conways' neighbors on Manhattan's West Side are gonna be driven out of their skulls by the sound of two twin typewriters clackin' away night and day! Anyway, best wishes both to GERRY and CARLA, and to MURRAY and ADRIENNE — and somebody help our poor editor pick all that rice out of his shoes, willya?

ITEM THE LAST! Next time around, we'll mention several more block-bustin' bargains you can get once you've amassed a complete set of our much-praised, much-clipped MARVEL VALUE STAMPS! But, for now, we've just got room enough left to mention a few of our mammoth-sized mags. So, till then — *Save Energy! Subscribe, Already!*

[illegible] MARVEL [illegible]
[illegible] On Sale!

GIANT-SIZE SPIDER-MAN #1: Spidey meets Dracula — or does he? The answer's all yours — for just 50¢!

GIANT-SIZE MAN-THING #1: As if the macabre Man-Thing weren't enough — re-enter the Hulk's old nemesis, the Blob! A 50¢ fear-fest!

GIANT-SIZE FANTASTIC FOUR #2: The fabulous F.F. — lost in the untraveled paths of time! Plus — 50¢ worth of features and fantasy!

DRACULA LIVES #7: She-pirates! The mysterious Death-Man! All this — plus the undisputed King of Vampires! 75¢ — and sensational!

ZOMBIE #6: The Zombie strikes again! And so does Brother Voodoo! Six bits worth of supernatural thrills!

HAUNT OF HORROR #2: Special Exorcism Issue! Meet the man called Gabriel — DEVIL HUNTER! All this and Satana, too — for just 75¢!

SAVAGE TALES #5: Red Sonja is back — and Conan's got her! Two titanic, timeless tales of swords and sorcery — plus phantasmagorical features — for only 75¢!

MIGHTY MARVEL BECOMES DEHYDRATED HYBORIANIZED AND ARTIFIED

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Well, we did it! It seems that every month something happens here at Marvel which is even more exciting than the month before. Remember how we've been telling you over the years that comics can be — and indeed are — educational in many respects? Okay, you don't have to take our word for it any longer. Wait'll you hear this! There isn't one of you who doesn't know of the great work that Children's Television Workshop (Sesame Street and The Electric Company) has been doing in making youngsters more proficient in reading skills. Well, they've decided on a new project — the use of comic-books. And which company will they naturally work with? Aww, someone must have told you. Yep, even as you read these sententious sentences, the first fabulous issue of SPIDEY is being prepared, and will be on sale in a few short months. SPIDEY! It's a new kind of Spider-Man magazine, for the younger Marvelite, for your kid brother or sister — and it's a precedent-shattering co-production of mighty Marvel and CTW's Electric Company! But that's only half of it! You'll also be seeing your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man live on the Electric Company TV show all over the U.S.A.! Like we said, it's for the younger viewer, but it's Spidey in the flesh, and it's just the start of a whole new wave of Marvel excitement! Oh, and speaking of TV — I hope those of you in the Ohio area were able to catch the lively show aired over WBGU-TV and other stations on March 28th. Entitled "Comics. Birth of An American Art Form," it was produced by Bowling Green University's Department of Popular Culture and featured yours truly, in discussion and seminar. The theme dealt with comics as a legitimate intellectual activity, and my thanks to co-producer Mike Marsden and the rest of the gang for a job well done. So there you are — Marvel teamed with The Electric Company in a special project for the small fry — and Marvel covering the campuses like wildfire, bringing culture to academia! If there's any group we've missed, we'll grab 'em next time!

Excelsior!

Stan

And though Marvel's epoch-making team-up with the ever-lovin' Electric Company may be the icing on the cake for this month, we're not exactly standing still on other fronts, just the same! We've only got space to mention 'em briefly on this page, but various special ads and announcements scattered thru most of our mixed-up mags for the next few weeks will relate the full, unfettered facts on the following.

ITEM! Marvel is going Ape! For months now, there've been whispers, rumors, and unsubstantiated reports, running rampant thru comics fandom. And, for once, the rumors turn out to be *right*: Debuting June 25th at your friendly neighborhood newsstand is a brand new Marvel magazine, nothing less than — THE PLANET OF THE APES! That's right — one of the most popular movie series of all time, which has been shattering Neilsen ratings on the home-screen as well, will be lumbering your way six times a year, in a king-size new mag containing enough comics, photos, and features to drive the most avid Ape-lover up a tree in ecstasy! There'll be an action-packed retelling of the widely-heralded "Apes" films — articles on the stars, the makeup, and just about every other kind of behind-the-scenes activity — *plus* an all-new comic-strip *sequel* to the five fabulous flicks themselves, written by GERRY CONWAY and DOUG MOENCH, and drawn by MIKE PLOOG! This mind-bending mag costs a measly buck for 84 big pages — and is destined to set both film and comics buffs on their collective ear! That's PLANET OF THE APES #1 — to be unleashed on June 25th, wherever magazines are sold! Get it, gorillaphile!

ITEM! We're introducing still *another* 84-page epic to you this month, too — as Conan the Barbarian, fresh from his triumphant return in SAVAGE TALES, hurtles from the pages of that mag into a new $1 wonder titled — THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN! Artwork by BUSCEMA, SMITH, MAROTO, and others — scripts by ROY THOMAS (with, admittedly, a modicum of assistance from one ROBERT E. HOWARD) — all slashing your way on June 18th, on those self-same overstocked newsstands! 'Nuff said, by Crom!

ITEM! And, on the full-color front, there are two new 50¢ phantasmagorias coming your way, to boot! First, and not to be confused with the $1 mag mentioned above, there's the GIANT-SIZE CONAN #1, as Roy teams up with GIL KANE and TOM SUTTON to produce some of the greatest Hyborian-Age hijinx ever — in living, lethal color! Secondly, there's the first issue of nothing less than — GIANT SIZE MASTER OF KUNG FU! Shang-Chi, steel-smashing son of Fu Manchu, stars in a full-length all-new saga written by Doug Moench and drawn by one of fandom's newest delights, Peerless PAUL GULACY! Martial arts action — from cover to cover! More we gotta tell you?

AND, SPEAKING OF ITEMS: This *last* little tidbit isn't exactly chicken-fat, either! Yep, this is the month when the awesome, ultimate MARVEL VALUE STAMP will appear somewhere — sometime — in one (count 'em, *one*) of our colorful classics! Nope, we still won't tell you just which of our world-famous super-stars it features; we'll leave you the fun of finding that out for yourself, when you discover it starin' back at you from one of our lillin' letters pages! Don't miss it, though, 'cause it'll be featured once and once only all this year — and, next month (after a delay or twain), we'll be telling you a whole long list of comic-book stores, all across the land, where presenting your MARVEL VALUE STAMPBOOK chockful of all 100 Stamps will get you a galvanizin' FREE GIFT! We said it before, we'll say it again, and it's no hype: VALUE is Marvel's middle name!

Till next time, amigo — peace!

Marvel proudly announces its newest, block-buster magazine:
PLANET OF THE APES!
ALL-NEW ACTION STRIPS! PHOTOS FROM EVERY "APES" MOVIE! NEWS OF UPCOMING TV TRIUMPHS!
JUST ONE DELIGHTFUL DOLLAR BILL — FOR 84 BIG PAGES!

WONDROUSLY WITTY WORDS FROM A WOOMFUL OF WOMBATS!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hey, troops, how does it feel to be part of nostalgia? Do you realize that just a few short years from now you'll be looking back at these days and referring to them as the Second Golden Age of Marvel? How come? Glad you asked! Not only does SPIDEY, our new co-publishing effort with Childrens Television Workshop, make its first appearance this month—not only is CRAZY, The Magazine That Dares To Be Dumb, becoming a runaway best-seller in the satire field—not only does the eagerly-awaited ORIGIN OF MARVEL COMICS go on sale throughout the world in October—not only have we revolutionized the magazine industry with our ever-growing group of black-and-white combination comic-strip/story mags—not only do we have the largest, most successful line of color comics the world has ever known—not only is the titanic TREASURY OF SPIDER-MAN the dynamite sensation of the season—but, wait'll you hear this. Sometime in August you'll have a chance to buy the most beautiful, most off-beat, most sensational calendar of all time; namely, THE MARVEL COMICS CALENDAR FOR 1975! It's big, it's slick, it's in glorious color, and it's a juicy $3.95 wherever books, magazines, and greeting cards are sold—in cities, towns, and campuses everywhere! But, if you think it's just an ordinary good-looking calendar, forget it! It'll knock your eye out! Virtually every month, every week, every single day has a drawing, photo, gag, or some sort of skull-blasting surprise to turn you on! It's Marvel at its maddest, merriest, and most magnificent! And it's Rascally Roy, at the top of his form, brilliantly aided by Merry Marie and the rest of the batty Bullpen!

Best of all, it's peerlessly published by Simon & Schuster, who've included more cartoons, pictures, and paintings of more superheroes, villains, and assorted Marvel maniacs than you ever thought existed! In fact, we've just learned that PLAYBOY is planning a big write-up on the MARVEL COMICS CALENDAR FOR 1975 in its upcoming August issue! But I'd better sign off now before this sounds like bragging—'cause you know how modest we Marvelites are! Just remember—if you'd kinda like to latch onto one of the greatest collectors' items of the century, grab yourself a Marvel Calendar before the Smithsonian Institute gobbles 'em all up! Anyway, that's enough low-key selling for now—wait'll you see what we've got lined up for next time!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Hmmm. Looks like Smiley just about said it all already. Still, if there's any doubt that the whole wide world is becoming Marvel-conscious, the following fistful of personalized mini-items ought to erase 'em once and for all. To wit:

ITEM! First off, our own Rascally ROY THOMAS—who still manages to write a comic-mag or three a month, in between his ever-burgeoning editorial duties—was recently awarded an *Alfred* by the first International Comic-Strip Congress at Angouleme, France. (The "Alfred" after whom the coveted prize is named is a precocious penguin who appears in a French comic-strip.) The award was given to Roy as best comics writer in a foreign language. Sheesh! And here all these years he thought he was writing in English!

ITEM! We neglected to mention it in the rush of other epoch-making events of the past few months, but Crawdaddy Magazine, one of the better-known rock magazines now on the stands, has been reviewing comics for some time now. Naturally, we don't exactly concur in *all* of its erudite evaluations, but we salute them for applauding the recent efforts of STARLIN, ENGLEHART, and MILGROM on mags like MASTER OF KUNG FU and CAPTAIN MARVEL. 'Course the titanic trio have moved on to conquer new worlds since then—but wherever they pop up, either separately or in tandem, you can bet the result'll be well worth anybody's two bits!

ITEM! The nominations for the annual Awards given out by the Academy of Comic-Book Arts have been announced and, while we don't have room to sandwich 'em all in here, suffice it to say that the minions of Marvel were not exactly *overlooked* this time around. To name just a couple of categories, two of the Best-Continuing-Feature nominees were CONAN and TOMB OF DRACULA, while both CONAN and DR. STRANGE tales were nominated for Best Story. Likewise, both Judo JIM STARLIN and Kolorful KLAUS JANSON are up for Outstanding New Talent—while the lustrous names of MARIE SEVERIN, MIKE PLOOG, LARRY HAMA, and BOB FOSTER make the list of Best-Humor-Penciler nominees read virtually like the table of contents of CRAZY Magazine! As usual, we'll give a full unfettered list of the winners in a month or two, in one of our lilt'n' letters columns. So keep watchin', hear?

ITEM! Well, we've finally caught up (more or less) with the Niagara of mail which keeps cascading into 575 Madison—so we can finally start accepting memberships in our far-out, fabulously successful FOOM Fan Club! If you're not already one of the 25,000 or so members, then you're missing a personal, gold-finished Membership Card—a fistful of sensational Stick-Ons—a special FOOM poster, featuring about a zillion of our greatest super-stars—not to mention a several-issue trial subscription to our own FOOM Magazine, which gives you advance news items and inside glimpses into the madness that is Marvel. In case you've just decided you can no longer bear to remain one of the Unwashed and Underprivileged, here's a coupon that'll help you end it all—!

THE ULTIMATE FAN CLUB!

FOOM!

FRIENDS OF OL' MARVEL

ONLY $2.50!

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New York, N.Y. 10022

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Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

(Please Print Clearly)

N.Y. RESIDENTS ADD SALES TAX. CANADIAN AND FOREIGN ORDERS ADD 75¢ FOR POSTAGE.

HEY, HERO! HAVE WE GOT A BONUS PAGE TO PICK WITH YOU!

Well, here we are again — with a few more comments and gentle cajolings! Let's not waste any time dilly-dallying, shall we —?

You win! These cockamamey MVS Stamps are fillin' up my whole house — and I've gotta have someplace to put 'em! Please rush me my MARVEL VALUE STAMPBOOK! I enclosed 50¢ in coin to cover postage and handling, whatever that means!

Name_____

Address_____

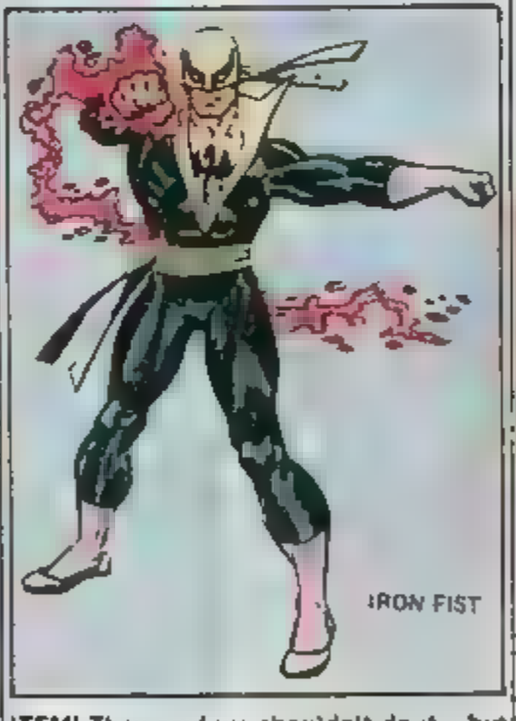
City_____ State_____ Zip_____

(Please Print Clearly)

Send to:
MARVEL VALUE STAMPBOOK
c/o Marvel Comics Group
575 Madison Ave.
N.Y.C., N.Y. 10022

ITEM! First off, we've gotta thank you for your wildly enthusiastic response to our mighty MARVEL VALUE STAMPS! Already, literally *thousands* of you have sent for, and received your specially-numbered Stampbooks! (And, when you learn *why* we numbered 'em, just a few short weeks from now, you're gonna flip!) That free full-color *Bonus Poster* you get with your Stampbook would be well worth any true Marvelite's four bits, all by itself! So get your Stampbook while they last — and before the second series of stamps begins, not many moons from now — 'cause we're now in the final stages of preparing a list of *dozens* of comic book stores and conventions all over the U.S. and Canada where you can use your filled-up Stampbook to get *free Marvel mags* at a special *MVS Discount!* And you ain't seen *nothin'* yet!

ITEM! *Hail!* Our various kung fu comics and mags have proven such blockbusters that we've just unleashed a DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU SPECIAL, with 84 big pages for a buck — and Sept. 17 will see the pulse-pounding *premiere issue* of our brand new 75-center, IRON FIST — a companion-mag to our Living Weapon's masked meanderings in the pages of our color MARVEL PREMIERE title! That's DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU SPECIAL #1 and IRON FIST Magazine #1 — with enough photos and film-features to keep you groovin' till Caine becomes a warmonger! *Pax!*



ITEM! They said we shouldn't do it — but we did! They said we shouldn't do anything any stupider than the first few issues of CRAZY, the humor-mag with a heart (but, unfortunately, no brain)! So, we've thrown caution to the winds and put together an issue of all the items and ideas we've *refused* to do during our first year — and the result is CRAZY's first (and maybe last) Annual Reject Issue! There's a second demented takeoff on "Kung Fu" — and everybody knows we did all the good gags the *first* time, right? Then there's a special section about Toads — which we rejected in favor of Moosekind! There's even a bunch of Politickles we rejected for obvious reasons: side-splitting one-liners about Vice President Agnew, Kissinger the Eternal Bachelor, and George McGovern (who?). Find out why we rejected each and every item in the mag — if, that is, we don't come to our senses before August — and reject the whole blamed issue! That's CRAZY — the humor-mag that dares to be dumb dumber dumbest!

ITEM! Just enough room left to tell you that there are still *five people* out there somewhere who haven't yet joined our fabulous FOOM club — who haven't yet savored their gold-finished Membership Card, or lovingly licked their sensational Stick Ons, or pasted up their special poster — or even received a four-issue subscription to FOOM Magazine with its Internationally-obscure *Irving Awards!* Yep, those five people had better sign up, 'and fast — especially if they still have relatives in Latveria or Transylvania! (And, here's a cryptic message in Dracula Code — decipherable only to FOOMembers: FFZE SFJV PDLR TQQE TFUD BKXW TGHM UKQT MCQI UQIX IGDT ES.)

THE ULTIMATE FAN CLUB!

FOOM!

FRIENDS OF OL' MARVEL

FOOM! You already know about the **MAGAZINE** and the **SPIDER-MAN CODE!** And that's just for starters!

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A word to the wise is sufficient. Or, as someone once quipped:
'Nuff said!

SUMPTUOUS SCOOPS ABOUT SUMMER, SPIDEY—AND SOFTBALL!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Y'know, I hate to sound like I'm always hawking something in the ol' Soapbox, but we've never launched as many exciting new projects as these past few months, and this is the only place where I can get you all together and tell you about 'em all at once! Anyway, by the time you read these pulsating phrases SPIDEY SUPER STORIES is already on sale. That's the one we're producing in partnership with the Children's Television Workshop "Electric Company" show, and it's for all the younger Marvelites among you. So be sure that your kid brothers and sisters latch onto a copy—it'll keep 'em outta your hair for a while! But, for the rest of you mature and meritorious madmen, the time is come to grab the most colorful production in all of comicdom—namely, the great new MARVEL SUPERHERO CALENDAR, which goes on sale early in August wherever books and magazines are sold! Reserve your copy fast; judging by the flood of advance orders, it's gotta be a sell-out! And now, another swingin' surprise from the one and only House of Ideas! Call us show-offs if you wanna, but we figure the time has come to prove we can do more than produce the world's greatest comic books—we're about to invade the magazine field, too! Can't you just imagine TIME, PLAYBOY, and the READERS DIGEST shakin' in their boots? Well, no wonder, 'cause here comes our newest brain-blaster! Early in September a grateful public will feast its collective eyes on the most beautiful publication of the month—Marvel's joyous journey into the past—NOSTALGIA ILLUSTRATED! You'll thrill to the photos and articles about Babe Ruth, W. C. Fields, Elvis Presley, Tom Mix, Mae West, and countless other greats from the yesteryears of time!

But now it's time for something in a more serious vein, a story that must be retold—a chronicle of man's inhumanity to man and the ultimate triumph of good over consummate evil. Recognizing the awesome power of the printed page to enlighten, to inform, and to stir the conscience of the world, Marvel proudly presents the first in a spectacular series of magazine documentaries—photo-profiles of men and women who have changed the course of history! Our first, never-to-be-forgotten issue is entitled HITLER! Yes, it's the incredible picture biography of the fanatical Nazi führer whose hell-spawned racism and maniacal lust for conquest brought the entire human race to the brink of destruction! In this incredible issue you'll see shocking pages of actual history come to life before your eyes! You'll see the almost unbelievable rise and fall of Nazi Germany, the Third Reich which Hitler vowed would live a thousand years! All this and more await you in our first photo-profile, HITLER—produced by Marvel—and on sale now!

Incidentally, have you noticed I haven't said a word about the mammoth-sized TREASURY OF SPIDER-MAN, the $1.50 library edition which is also now on sale? That's because it's selling so fast that if you haven't gotten yours yet you may already be too late! But, lest you think we'll finally be content to slow down and rest on our laurels, here's just a hint of our next block-buster. Even before the shock waves begin to settle, we'll be topping off the whole megillah with our long-awaited ORIGIN OF MARVEL COMICS, the 250-plus-page full-color book published by Simon and Schuster, due on sale in October at book stores everywhere! So save your shekels and keep thinking Marvel. As for me, I'd better sign off now—before you get the idea that we're tryin' to sell you something!

Excelsior!

Stan

Sheesh! After all the super-treats the Smiling One just tossed at you, I (Rascally ROY speaking now, friends and neighbors) almost hate to mention that those of you with a few pennies left over might get a kick out of grandiose goodies like our groovy medallions—or the plastic model kits of Spidey, the Hulk, and others being churned out by the Aurora people—or the various towels, T-shirts, and trinkets which you'll see spotlighted in our 75¢ and $1 mags. Heck, if you get desperate, you might even try buying a plain ol' colorful 36-page comic-book or two! Meanwhile, though, here are a few other tidbits for you to chew on—!

ITEM! Hey, ever wonder how the madcap Marvel crew spent their summer vacations? Well, we're gonna tell you anyway! Besides the usual mishmash of comic-art conventions and travel-treks, here's the scoop: This turned out to be the Softball Summer! That's right—each and every Wednesday, come 5 p.m., a couple of dozen artists, writers, and production pundits dashed out of 575 Madison and made a beeline for nearby Central Park, where they demonstrated quite amply that the National Pastime is far from passé. Early on (we'll tell you more next time), Glitzy GLYNIS WEIN was the surprise star of the season, as LEN's Welsh-born lass showed she could pitch a mean curve—while Rampagin' RON WILSON turned out to be a Power Man on the softball field as well as in the pages of Luke Cage's mag! Truth to tell, though, there were a goodly number of sore arms, legs, and prides the first few weeks; sitting at a drawing-board or typewriter isn't exactly the best warm-up for the ol' diamond. Our baseball batty Bullpen's ambition: To get good enough to challenge the Playboy Bunnies to an All-Star Game! Last time we looked, though, Hugh Hefner wasn't holding his breath.

ITEM! And what about *off* the ballfield? Well, when he wasn't swinging a mean bat, HERB TRIMPE was last seen jogging every day thru that selfsame Central Park—and usually being mistaken by at least one starstruck passerby for Alan Alda of M*A*S*H fame! Down New Jersey way, Valiant VINNE COLLETTA was trying out his new tennis courts—while, on different coasts, STEVE ENGLEHART and GIL KANE were basking languidly by their swimming pools—and maybe even sneaking a fast dip or two, in between deadlines. Somewhat less athletically, Ye Editor filled in between softball and Cimmerians by playing Postal Chess—and hosting a once-a-month poker marathon, where I tried to match winnings and witticisms with the likes of JOHNNY ROMITA, MIKE ESPOSITO, SOL BRODSKY, STAN GOLDBERG, and AL MILGROM. Repeat: tried.

See you on the Bullpen Bonus Page!

BULLPEN BONUS PAGE! (WHAT ELSE?)

ITEM! Ever wonder why one writer or artist gives up a feature to another? Well, here's a case in point: At almost the same time recently that STEVE (Baby) GERBER got an overwhelming urge to write our DEFENDERS spectacular, it seems that Live-it-up LEN WEIN got a similar itch to script a lone-wolf superhero like DAREDEVIL. The first Ye Ed tor knew of it was when the pair marched into my office in tandem and sa d they'd like to trade books for a while. I figured each of 'em would br ng a new and infectious enthusiasm to already-popular mags, so I okayed the deal. Ditto with Len and Merry GERRY CONWAY, who're trading writing chores on FANTASTIC FOUR and MARVEL TEAM UP, mainly so that Ger can handle virtually all of the many Spider-Man pages which are unleashed by the House of Marvel every month. (All, that is, except those which are scripted by an obscure newcomer named JEANIE THOMAS — no relation to Ye Editor, except by marriage — for our nefarious new title, SPIDEY SUPER STORIES, published in conjunction with TV's Electric Company, big brother to Sesame Street!)

ITEM! It's the hit of fandom — in just one earth-shattering issue! Ordinarily, that's the kind of remark we'd be mak-ing about a *single* new title, right? But in this case, it's equally true of *both* of our new one-dollar wonders, PLANET OF THE APES and THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN! Already, the artistry of PLOOG, TUSKA, and MOENCH is being hailed by gorillaphiles the world over, already, our swarthy Cimmerian (as in-terpreted by BUSCEMA, SMITH, and the like) has gained a new Hyborian Legion of enthusiastic admirers! And, with the *second* issues of these wondrous win-ners — now on sale — there can no longer be any doubt. It's the Marvel Age of Magazines as well as the Marvel Age of Comics! (And, if you're still nagged by any last, lingering doubts, just sneak a peak at what BUSCEMA and company are doing in SAVAGE TALES — at our steel-frsted DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU title, which is already going *monthly* by unprecedented popular demand — at our currently-debuting *science fiction* $1 mag which you've clamored for, long and loud—at our widely-acclaimed adap-tation of Bram Stoker's classic novel in DRACULA LIVES — at Satana and at Gabriel, Devil-Hunter, in the pages of HAUNT OF HORROR — and at all the way-out wonderment in mags like ZOM BIE, VAMPIRE TALES, CRAZY, MON-STERS UNLEASHED, MONSTERS OF THE MOVIES, etc., etc., etc. — and maybe you'll get what we're driving at!)

See you next month, ol' buddy!

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NOTES AND NEWS ON A MYRIAD OF MISSIONS!

Boy! I was so long-winded last ish telling you all about our mighty Marvel Calendar and the great new ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS, both of which ought to be on sale right about now, as well as our HITLER documentary mag, plus NOSTALGIA ILLUSTRATED, and the TREASURY OF SPIDER MAN, that I promised Roy and the gang I'd stifle myself a little this time in order to leave them a few paragraphs to tell you about the zillion other wonderments from the hallowed halls of Marvel!

So, in order to give you a breather — and let the Bullpen carry the ball — I'll just take a minute to mention what a great time I had lecturing at the University of New Hampshire recently, and what a kick it was to receive the Popular Culture Association's Award of Excellence a few weeks ago in Milwaukee. You should have seen upwards of two thousand college students, professors, deans, and other dwellers in the rarified atmosphere of academia praising the merit and the miracle of Marveldom! Verily, 'twas a fete to remember! I can hardly tell you what a great source of satisfaction it is to know that, with your help, we've made the art of comic-books widely respected, universally accepted, and avidly acclaimed both here and overseas. Yep, I've gotta admit it — we're a great team, you and your blushin' Bullpen!

And now, unless Iron Man finds a pin-up of Aunt May in Conan's footlocker, I promise to clue you in on what's happening with our latest pulse-pounding project — the feature-length, live-action Spider-Man movie now in preparation — the next time we meet!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! We know it's a wee bit late, for those of you who've already picked up on our hittin' lineup of 75¢ and $1 magazines — and who hasn't? — but we thought we'd best clue you in off cially: Ye Editor-in-Chief (that's ROY THOMAS, for you old-timers out there) has formally appointed a couple of new Editors to help him out with our ever-burgeoning titles. First there's Marvelous MARV WOLFMAN, who's being kept busy with DRACULA LIVES, VAMPIRE TALES, and our zestfully zany CRAZY Mag, while Roy himself keeps his hand in with SAVAGE TALES, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, and our new science-fiction mag, the first issue of which (tentatively titled WORLDS UNKNOWN, Vol. 2, No. 1, last time we looked) should be on sale even as we speak! That leaves TONY "The Tiger" ISABELLA, aided and abetted by Cheerful CHRIS CLAREMONT, to preside over the bulk (and we do mean *bulk*!) of black-and-white masterpieces. And wouldn't you know that, with no less than four guys working fulltime, there's still more than the poor guys and our overworked production staff can handle!

ITEM! Let's hear a hearty "Welcome Aboard!" for a contingent of dynamic new artists who hail from the far-off Philippines, and who're adapting by leaps and bounds to the Mighty Marvel style of dramatic storytelling! First, there's Tremendously-Talented TONY deZUNIGA, who's currently earning hordes of new fans illustrating tales of Dracula and the Golem, as well as embellishing the Ka-Zar epics in SAVAGE TALES. Next, there's Awesome ALFREDO ALCALA, already earning kudos in the pages of ZOMBIE, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, and elsewhere (Alfredo, believe it or don't, pencils and inks some sixty pages per month of beautiful, finely-detailed artwork). Thirdly, there's Slammin' SONNY TRINIDAD, whose Morbius and Dracula stories soon will chill you to the marrow — and then there's Startling STEVE GAN, whose "Brak the Barbarian" sagas in SAVAGE TALES are setting sword-and-sorcery fandom on its collective ear! In addition, there are several other up-and-coming young artists who will soon be thrilling you in the pages of our back-and-white blockbusters — all presided over, at our Eastern-Hemispheric Branch, by Tony's ever-lovin' spouse MARY deZUNIGA, who keeps all those pandemonious pages moving across the wide Pacific. They're all knocking themselves out, so let them — and us — know how you feel about their efforts in the months to come, okay?

ITEM! Here's a hale-and-hearty hello to DAVID ANTHONY KRAFT (hereinafter referred to as DAVE), who's piped himself aboard to help Dauntless DON McGREGOR proofread all our color comics. Not only is Dave a scripter to watch in his own write, as someone once said, but he's also a demon *literary agent* in his spare time! Don and Dave are backed up, in turn, by Roy's new Person Friday, Impish IRENE VARTANOFF, who's been active in fan circles for years and who's now overseeing our rhapsodic reprints and letters pages (when she isn't working on her Master's Thesis, that is — nobody rests at night among the batty Bullpen!). Like we said — welcome, one and all!

ITEM! It's not *all* unmitigated good news this month, though. Both DON HECK and GIL KANE's lovely wife ELAINE were in separate auto accidents, from which they're both recuperating (and doing nicely, we're overjoyed to say). Likewise, Lethal LARRY HAMA burned his fingers slightly in a freak electrical accident at the studio he shares with DICK GIORDANO, NEAL ADAMS, RALPH REESE, and others. Dick, Neal, et al. stepped in like troopers to help him finish off the current Iron Fist episode — for which thanks, both from us and from the legion of kung-fu fans the world over! (Whew! And you wondered why editors get gray hairs!?)

ITEM! Anybody out there catch Big JIM HARMON, West-Coast Editor of our photo-filled MONSTERS OF THE MOVIES mag, on a recent edition of the NBC-TV show "Knowledge" — or else on a certain nationally-syndicated news program? It seems that, ever since we hired J.H. to edit the magazine, he's been simultaneously discovered by the media men of the land, as well! (Just keep pluggin' M.O.M., Jim — not that you need any hints from us!)

ITEM! Can't resist sneaking in a plug for our newest nutty nonsense mag — for those of you who've made CRAZY the toast of the town (mainly, Hoboken, New Jersey). This one's for those of you who like your humor flavored with a touch of the macabre — a hint of the *horrible* — a pinch of the mysterious. And — are you ready for this? — the name of our new chills-and-chuckles sensation is . . . ARRGH! (No, Irving, that's not our reaction to it; that's the title: ARRGH! Pick up a copy today — and go ARRGH yourself! 'Nuff said!

Just a last-minute reminder that the MIGHTY MARVEL CALENDAR FOR 1975 is just going on sale in real live bookstores from coast to coast! We think you'll find it $3.95 well-spent (how's that for soft sell?). But, you know muddled-up Marvel: we always have to let a typo or two sneak thru, just to give you something to hunt for. So, we'll offer a shiny new no-prize to the first dozen Calendar purchasers who spot which day of the year is accidentally printed *twice* (while one day was omitted entirely). No fair finding other boobpos, now — you know how insecure we get!

ITEM! That's all we've got room for on *this* page — but there's an extra item or three on our Bullpen Bonus Page, elsewhere in this issue. We wouldn't want you to think we've been *idle* now, would we? See you there, Marvelophile!

AWESOME ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AUTUMNAL ADMONISHMENTS FOR ALL!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Even as I sagaciously scribble these imperishable words, this summer's much-publicized Comic Art Convention is slowly drawing to a close here in New York. Boy, how I wish you could have all been here to toast our own Roy Thomas as he was co-guest of honor at a special, luminary-packed luncheon; and how I wish you could have heard and applauded Johnny Romita, Marie Severin, Gil Kane, and a host of other Bullpen big-timers who lent their time and talents to some of the zingiest panel discussions and demonstrations in the place! Those of you who comprise the riotous ranks of Foomdom, be sure to watch for your next ish of Foom which will clue you in on most of the fun and frivolity of the biggest Comic Art Con of all. As for the rest of the lustrous legions of Marveldom —Onward!

I know you'll find this hard to believe, but even yours truly can make a mistake! In the past few issues, no matter how many times I mentioned the great new ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS, the block-buster book which features the entire early history of your all-time favorites—no matter how many times I mentioned that you'll have the unedited origin stories, plus more recent yarns, plus page after page of straight-from-the-shoulder secrets of who did what, and how we did it—I still forgot to mention one of the most important things of all—we're also reproducing the actual cover of each magazine in which the origin stories appeared, thus making THE ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS the most complete history of Marvel's golden age ever published! Okay, now that I told you, the cosmos shall not crumble; the galaxy still stands!

Oops! One final word. I still can't give you all the details about our upcoming Spider-Man movie because everything was held up for a while due to the summer vacations. But, while you're breathlessly waiting, remember that the ol' wall-crawler can be seen, effective with their new series starting in October, on the world-famous Electric Company TV show. How's that for an appetite-whetter, Charlie?

So, till next time, hang loose, face front, think Marvel, and hey—why not take a troll to dinner?

Excelsior!

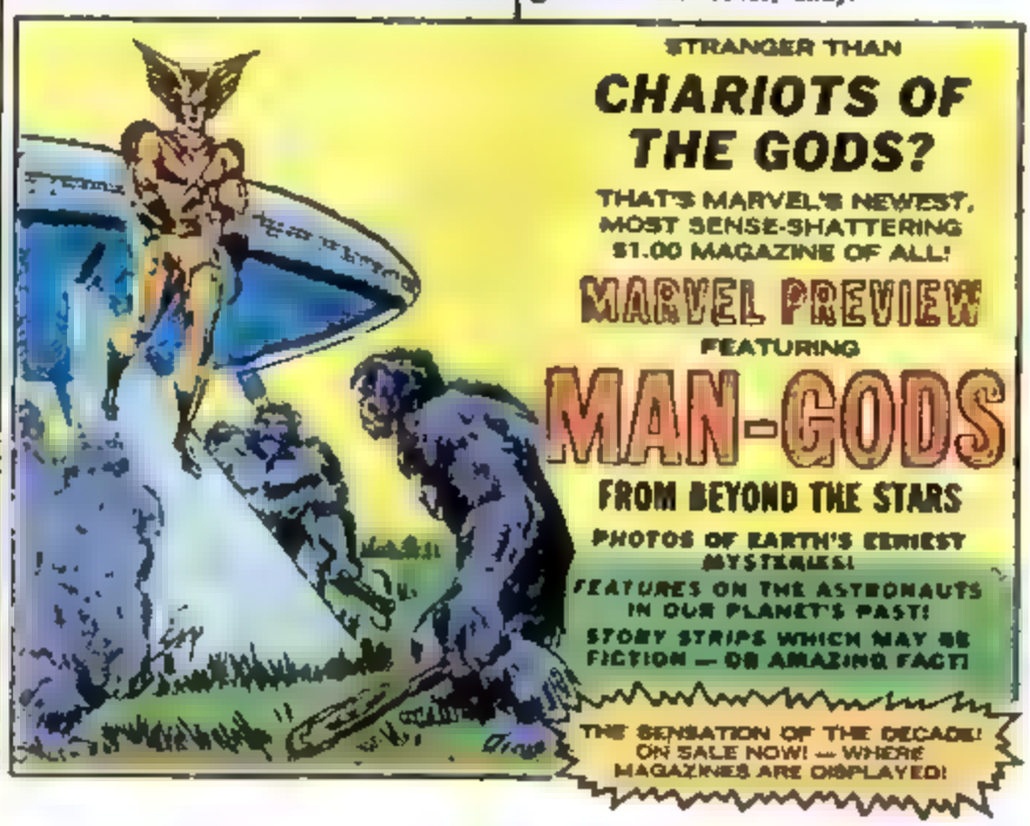
Stan

ITEM! Remember how we promised you the latest scoop on our mighty Marvel softball team? Well, the other day the Marvel Comics (as some anonymous wag christened our Bullpen batters) took on the whole cockamamey staff of the Greenwich *Village* Voice, one of New York's best-known newspapers. We won't exactly tell you who won—but let's just say that our new team motto is, "Wait'll next year!" 'Nuff said?

ITEM! Even as we speak, a couple of new Marvel goodies are going on sale, wherever magazines are displayed. One of the first full-size issue of our great new IRON FIST mag (not to be confused with the Living Weapon's appearances in MARVEL PREMIERE). We had to delay this one an entire month in order to do it just right—but we think you'll figure it was worth the wait! Our second smash is the first issue of MARVEL PREVIEW—a one-dollar wonder which will showcase a fabulous new feature each and every ish! Our maiden voyage: MAN-GODS FROM BEYOND THE STARS! And if this stunning science-fiction tale of earth's first alien visitors doesn't knock Von Daniken and company right out of their chariots, then we're taking the first flying saucer out of here!

ITEM! Say hello to Live-It-Up LEN WEIN! Huh? You say he's already been piped aboard the Marvel ark? Well, it's true you've been thrilling in recent months to his much-acclaimed scripting on THE HULK and other Marvel biggies, and that he's currently beginning a stint on no less than the FANTASTIC FOUR itself. But now, due to the press of editorial work, STAN and ROY have hired him to become Associate Editor of our whole color-comics line as well—because Len's already known and respected as one of the foremost writers in the field—because he's a sterling fellow and a hard worker—and mainly because he's darn near the only guy this side of Irv Forbush who knows the hectic history of all our far-out super-stars backward, forwards, and then some! Keep 'em flyin', Len—while Stan and *Roy* prepare to unleash still further wonderment upon a breathlessly waiting world!

MARVELOUS MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! A hurried round of thanks to Judo JIM STARLIN, who took time off from a top-secret new mag he's preparing in order to pencil the latest full-length tale in GIANT-SIZE DEFENDERS, just when we needed him the most! And he did it beautifully—so what else is new? • You know one of the hardest tasks around Marvel these days? It's finding just the right artist (with the right amount of time) to do MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE! Reason: Not everybody can draw the ever-lovin', blue-eyed Thing just the way that nature (and Stan Lee) intended! If you've any ideas on the subject—and who doesn't?—please pass 'em along to Ye Editor, huh? • A final word: For those of you who've told us you can't always find our 75¢ and $1 mags on your newsstands, and thus have missed out on some of the gleeful goodies we've been offering for-sale-by-mail in recent months, we've tossed in a full-page mail-order section this issue, in lieu of the usual Bullpen Bonus Page. Let us know if you'd rather see more such shop-by-mail segments in the future, or if you'd prefer instead the latest notes and news on our way-out writers and artists instead, okay? Till next time—be good to each other, okay?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PAEANS AND SELF-PLAUDITS FROM THE PUNDITS OF PANDEMONIUM!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hang in there, hero! We've got a couple of mind-blowin' items for you this month, so let's zero right in. First, how lucky can you be? You'll be seeing more sensational stories than ever from ol' ROY THOMAS from now on. Yep, the Rascally One has been itching to devote more of his time to writing, and he's finally decided to take the plunge. Hence, from this day forth, our award-winning editor becomes Editor Emeritus, a title he so richly deserves, as I hereby announce (and not without a twinge of envy), that he'll be scripting more Marvel masterworks than ever before. So here's to the youngest titleholder in all of Emeritusdom—long may he reign! Next ish, we'll describe our new editorial lineup in detail, but for now—onward!

It hadda happen! There's another Comics Con a'coming! But not just any other comics-book convention—nope, this time it's a MARVEL Con! That's right—during Easter vacation time your batty Bullpen is putting together one of the most exciting projects of the year for Marveldom Assembled. At a major New York hotel we'll be hosting the biggest, brassiest, brain-blastingest Marvel convention of all time! It'll be three full days of fun, fantasy, and fan heaven as you mingle with the greatest names in the Marvel galaxy! So, if you're planning a go-away vacation during Easter, we just wanna alert you—New York's where it'll all be happening! More info next month!

One last word, gang. I'm really overwhelmed by all the college lecture offers you've been tossing this way. I wish there was time to accept each one, but I want you to know I'm frantically trying to juggle my schedule so I can do as many as possible. I don't know whether all of academia wants to hear about Marvel or if you're just trying to keep me on the move so I won't have time to write any more Soapboxes! But whatever it is, keep those cards and letters comin', folks! And remember, it's time to take a toad to lunch!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Now after cutting his incisors on a Morbius tale or two in the pages of ADVENTURES INTO FEAR Frank has stepped up to give our pal SAL BUSCEMA a well-earned rest from the pages of CAPTAIN AMERICA—and to team up with Roy the Boy on a brand new 50¢ title due to debut early in '75. Its title? THE INVADERS! (Who's going to be in this newest, most exciting super group? We'll leave you guessing for a month or so, pilgrim. Suffice it to say that we think the lineup of this titlin' legion is going to catch nearly everybody off guard, and that Free-wheelin' Frank will definitely have his hands full!)

ITEM! Speaking of artist switches, it's time, as Genial GENE [illegible] more takes over the DR. STRANGE strip he's [illegible]mber those cabalistic classics of yesteryear? Well, get set to have 'em all eclipsed by the new team of COLAN, JANSON, and ENGELHART! As for Doc's previous artist, Far-out FRANK BRUNNER, he's keeping busy on one of the most-requested back-up features of all time. Yep, we're talking about none other than HOWARD THE DUCK, who's now appearing regularly in the pages of our quarterly GIANT SIZE MAN-THING mag (where else?) When you ask for things long enough and loud enough round Marveldom you get 'em! (Okay, okay, we know we know—so where's the Silver Surfer?)

ITEM! In case you haven't noticed, we've added a new 50-center or two as well. Still on sale, hopefully, is our new GIANT-SIZE KID COLT title, which spotlights the wildest 'new western team-ups ever. And this month sees GIANT-SIZE CHILLERS #1, with art by ALCALA, ALCAZAR, and right on thru the alphabet with Marvel's greatest mystery artists. What's more, December will herald the way-outest new mag of all—GIANT SIZE SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP co-starring (just for starters, mind you) Dr. Doom and the savage Sub-Mariner! How's that for an off-the-wall blockbuster announcement! (Well, if that doesn't hold you, how about this? THE X-MEN are coming back in brand new tales, in a giant-size mag due to debut just a couple of short months from now! We could've held back on that one, but we wanted to give all you mutant-boosters a chance to start saving your radioactive shekels.)

ITEM! Oh, and just so you don't think you've gone completely bananas, we thought we'd best clue you in that, due to circumstances beyond our control, the first issue of our new $1 magazine MARVEL PREVIEW (introducing the long-awaited new feature "Man-Gods From Beyond The Stars") was delayed at the last possible moment, and will be on sale in the next few weeks instead of right now, as we announced last issue. Sorry about that, friends, but we wanted to polish that gem up just right for you. Meanwhile, though, the premiere ish of our new $1 s-f title, UNKNOWN WORLDS OF SCIENCE FICTION, is on sale—complete with comic-strip versions of stories like Wyndham's **Day of the Triffids** masterpiece, Bob Shaw's stunning "Slow Glass" tales, plus art and story by the likes of COLAN, CONWAY, FREAS, ADAMS, WILLIAMSON, ISABELLA, KALUTA, and that illustrious ilk. Plus an exclusive, photo-filled interview with the one and only RAY BRADBURY! Face it, effendi!—if science fiction's ever gonna make it in the comics medium, **this is the one!** Only a buck for 84 big pages, and worth every hoarded penny—at your newsstands now!

End of unabashed plug—end of Bullpen Page! We return you now to our regularly-scheduled comic-mag!

ITEM! Let's roll out the red carpet for Free-wheelin' FRANK ROBBINS, Marvel's newest artist and born wanderer! As many of you know, Frank's been an artist and writer of the newspaper comic strip "Johnny Hazard" and is considered by his peers to be one of the finest craftsmen in the business.

MIGHTY MARVEL STRIKES AGAIN!

FIRST, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN--NEXT THE FABULOUS FANTASTIC FOUR--NOW, THE POWER-PACKED PRINCE OF ASGARD LASHES OUT IN HIS OWN KING-SIZED SPECIAL!

WITH PARDONABLE PRIDE, YOUR BATTY BULLPEN PRESENTS THE LATEST--POSSIBLY THE GREATEST--OF ITS DOUBLE-SIZED TREASURY EDITIONS!

ON SALE SOON!

THOR

NEWS AND MEANDERINGS FROM YOUR MIGHTY MUDDLED MERRY MAKERS!

Holiday Greetings, right from the heart
To our wondrous scripters
Who make writing an art.
To our painstaking pencillers
Breathing life to each tale
And our illustrious inkers
Be they female or male.
To our editors, letterers,
Production folk too,
Colorists, proof-readers,
Both the old and the new
But heading the list
Is our top superhero—
So, greetings to YOU, churn
Without you— we're zero!

Greetings as well to the fabulous folks at Children's Television Workshop who've helped us make comic-book history with the widely-acclaimed SPIDEY SUPER STORIES— and to the great guys and gals at Simon & Shuster who've made national best-sellers of our crazy and colorful MARVEL CALENDAR, as well as our sell-out sensation, the ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS! And, the Season's Best, from all of us here in the Bullpen to our talented engravers, printers, distributors, and licensees— to all the True Believers everywhere who've truly made The Marvel Age of Comics an era of fun, and fantasy, and fellowship that will long outlast these floeting words!

Excelsior!

Stan

Oops! Hold it! This is still starry-eyed Stan yakkin' on. I almost forgot to bring you up to date on the new, cataclysmic changes in our editorial line-up. Effective immediately, I'm proud to announce the appointment of Lively Len Wein as Executive Editor of mighty Marvel's greater-than-ever group of color comics! While with equal pride, I hereby acclaim Marvelous Marv Wolfman as Executive Editor of Marvel's sensational series of black-and-white story-panel magazines! And, even before our heads can stop reeling from this cataclysmic communique, let me add that Len and Marv will be assiduously assisted by their newly-appointed managing editors, Marvel's own Cheerful Chris Claremont and Dauntless Don McGregor! As for Roy "The Boy" Thomas, (remember when I first called you that, R.T.? Was it seven or eight years ago?), the Rascally One is now basking in the title of Editor Emeritus as he returns to his first love, scripting wherein he plans to produce more majestic masterworks than ever for Marveldom Assembled! And now, take it away, Lively Len, and the rest of the batty Bullpen—

ITEM! As if Smilin' Stan's loquacious comments above haven't confused you enough already, let us be the first to add that Len and Chris and Marv and Don will be bravely backed up by yet another two stalwarts; Sparkling SCOTT EDELMAN, former Associate Editor on our ever-burgeoning line of block-bustin' British weeklies, has shambled several doors over to become the latest— easily the LARGEST—Assistant Editor our cavortin' color comics line has ever seen, while DAVE (The Dude) KRAFT has assumed the title, not to mention the diligent duties, of Articles Editor for our bombastic black-and-white magazines. Welcome aboard the mighty Marvel ark, illustrious ones— and know ye that your efforts on behalf of Marveldom Assembled shall be applauded by all. (Now if we could only figure out some way to PAY you guys something every once in a while...)

ITEM! If you think you need a scorecard to keep track of your batty Bullpen's moves around the office, you need a whole blamed *computer* to keep tabs on their various movings about in the wondrous world outside during the past few months. To wit: the aforementioned Dauntless DON McGREGOR packed up his stunning wife SANDY, their durable daughter LAUREN, not to mention the world's largest collection of Robert Culp publicity stills, and trucked from the wilds of the Bronx into the heart of darkest Queens (just a very few blocks away from a certain malevolent couple named WOLFMAN, and a gentleman dude called KRAFT). Meanwhile, STEVE (Baby) GERBER carried himself and his belongings from the mythical borough of Brooklyn right into shadow-strewn mid-town Manhattan (Brave man, that GERBER), while still finding time to turn out a frankly-informative article on comics as a visual story-telling medium for the film-focused magazine SUPER-8 FILMMAKER. Back on the moving scene, Dynamic DAVE COCKRUM and family moved across over-crowded Queens; Iridescent IRENE VARTANOFF trekked across beleaguered Brooklyn; and in what must rank as one of the shortest moves on record, Merry GERRY and Cavortin' CARLA CONWAY (the hottest *new* writing team since Astaire and Rogers—that's Ginger, not Steve) shlepped their twin typewriters and their pandemonious paperback collection a whole *ten blocks* from their former digs. Let's hear it for braving new frontiers, folks. If we had room, we might also be tempted to mention that RICH (Swash) BUCKLER gathered wife, son, and drawing board, and journeyed back to his native Detroit, while Dapper DAN ADKINS pulled up stakes and fled East Liverpool, Ohio for the fresh air and cactus of Arizona But we don't have room, so we won't

ITEM! Looks like it's cataclysmic clarification time again, Pilgrims. Seems your beleaguered Bullpen has been bombarded lately by letters wondering *why* one or two of our mildly magnificent color mags haven't carried the mighty MARVEL VALUE STAMPS we've been telling you so much about, so now's as good a time as any to set the record straight. If you're eagerly looking for our vital VALUE STAMPS each and every month (and if you're not, you don't know the adventure you're missing), you'll find 'em on the lettin' *letters pages* of any and all of our mags that *have* letters pages. The reasons behind excluding the MVS's from non-letters paged mags is far too complicated to go into here, but trust us when we say it's a condition we just can't avoid right now. In the meantime, keep your eagle eyes peeled for the startling *second series* of VALUE STAMPS coming to you soon. Believe us, if ya thought the first series was enough to knock you out of your proverbial tree, the *second* we'll floor you

THE MIGHTY MARVEL COMICON!
FOUR WORDS THAT SPELL A WORLD OF EXCITEMENT!
IN PERSON! YOUR FAVORITE MARVEL HEROES!
IN PERSON! STAN LEE HIMSELF!
IN PERSON! THE WHOLE GAMEY BATTY BULLPEN!
THE DATE TO REMEMBER
MARCH 23-24, 75
FOR MORE INFORMATION, WRITE:
MIGHTY MARVEL COMICON
C/O PHIL SEULING
BOX 177 CONEY ISLAND STATION
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11224

ANOTHER ASSORTMENT OF ACTION-PACKED AD-LIBS AND ASTONISHING ADDENDUMS!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Okay, frantic ones, drop what you're doing and stand up and take a bow! It's time to congratulate each and every one of you on your taste, judgment, and dazzling discretion! Not only have you made Marvel Comics the largest, best-loved, and best-selling comic-book company on earth, but you've also made the Mighty Marvel Calendar for '75 the biggest sales sensation of the year — matched only by the fact that your matchless enthusiasm has made ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS a nation-wide bestseller! I can't count how many times both the calendar and the Origins have had to go back to press for additional printings to keep up with the demand! And now, the biggest news of all! The editors at Simon & Shuster are so excited about the sales of the book and the calendar that they've just ordered a new Marvel Calendar for '76 — and they've commissioned me to write a second book about Marvel's Origins — in fact, it looks as though they intend to create an entire Origins series! Incidentally, those of you who've already acquired a calendar or Origins book, don't dare lose them or lend them carelessly. You know how comic-books increase in value over the years — well, just imagine the value of *these* items once they're out of print! Of course, you don't have to go as far as one Bullpenner I know — he tossed all his money out of his bank vault and is replacing it with Origin books and calendars! Now *there's* a real believer!

Just one last note before I sign off. Didja hear about Ridgefield Park, N.J., Volunteer Ambulance Corps? It's a life-saving service, on call 24 hours a day — and a member of our blushin' Bullpen, one of the five females who were admitted this year, reports that Corps Captain Tim La Tour (who's also a Ridgefield Park policeman), has been spotted wearing a "Make Mine Marvel" button proudly on his uniform! And we've heard of various other uniformed stalwarts around the country who've been seen with Marvel buttons! How about telling us of any you've seen — we'll make up a list and put it in the Mighty Marvel Time Capsule, to confound the archeologists of the future! But, till then, remember — it's time to take a turtle to tea!

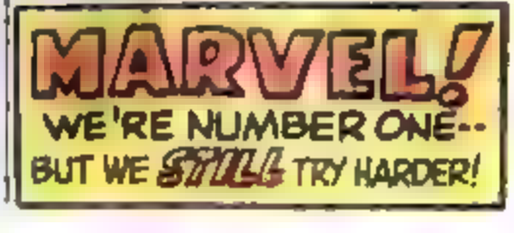
Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Looks like just about the hottest thing in town is still our mighty MARVEL VALUE STAMPS! Seems your batty Bullpen is constantly being deluged with letters wondering just what sort'a goodies you can get by being the proud possessor of a completely-filled Stamp Book. Well, just catch *this*, Faithful One: a completed MVS book will entitle you to a whoopin' *ten percent discount* on any of the matchless merchandise now being offered to you by your big-hearted House of Ideas. Just send your completed stamp book, along with a large-sized, stamped, self-addressed envelope, to MERCHANDISING, c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, *9th Floor, 575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022*, and your MVS book will be winging its way back to you, complete with dazzling discount coupon, faster than you can say "Quicksilver"! Of course, if you're just itching to get your hands on our marvelous merchandise *now*, just clip the coupon on this issue's merchandise page, and send your order along with your completed Stamp Book. We'll give you your first ten percent discount *immediately* — just because we love ya. We'll also send you *another* discount coupon for your next order, and we'll keep sending coupons as long as you keep sending orders. In other words, all holders of completed MARVEL VALUE STAMP books are eligible for a *perpetual* ten percent discount — besides having your name inscribed on our great, golden Honor Roll here in the hallowed halls of Marvel. And if you haven't completed *your* Stamp Book yet, don't fret, Effendi. We're gonna keep printing our MVStamps in our liftin' letters pages till each and every trusty True Believer has a chance to join the club. (Of course, if you never even *heard* of our much-vaunted VALUE STAMPS till you read this blazing Bulletin — and if you haven't, you must have been livin' in Lower Slobbovia — you can still lay your mitts on a sparkling Stamp Book by sending us a paltry *fifty cents.)* Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Mind-bending Bargains?

ITEM! Meticulous MICHELE WOLF-MAN, the only Bullpenner crazy enough — (Opps, we didn't mean to plug her hard-working husband's merely hysterical humor mag. It just slipped out somehow.) — to attempt the mammoth task of opening and reading *all* of the lifting letters, awesome orders, and nifty notes that seem to find their way to the little log cabin here on Madison Avenue, nearly collapsed from exhaustion the other day after making an all-out effort to clear away the enormous backlog of mail which was piling up in every available nook and cranny of our already undersized offices. It appears that some of our peerless pen-pals have been addressing their mighty missives merely to MARVEL COMICS GROUP and not to the specific mag for which the letter was intended — which means that these missives must sit, feeling lonely and unloved, until all the *properly addressed* mail has been attended to. And what, you may ask, part at the ready to scribble off a timely tome to your favorite titanic title, is *properly addressed* mail? So long as it gets where it's going, isn't it *properly addressed*, you quite rightly inquire. Nay, we respond — a thousand times nay! Even though the Meticulous One pursues her appointed task for as long as she has strength in her fast-moving fingers, she must read the notes addressed to an individual book or department *first.* Any mail addressed solely to "MARVEL COMICS GROUP" is forced to languish alone until MICHELE can find a loophole in her ever-burgeoning workload to attend to it properly. So get on the ball, Tigers. Please, for your sake and ours, follow these three guidelines. First, try to keep your cogent comments down to one type-written page, the better and faster for us to read them. Second, address your dazzling discourses to the mag for which they are intended, be it GREENSKIN'S GRABBAG or THE HYBORIAN PAGE. Third, if you wish a reply to your letter, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope to help us get it to you, as quickly as inhumanly possible. With any luck, between you, us, and the ever-peerless Postal Service, the wheels of progress will keep rolling smoothly along. (And we'll believe *that* the day we see it.)

ITEM! Before we sign off, we've got just enough room to remind you that our fabulous fan club FOOM is *still* producing the flat-out finest fan magazine of this or any other comics company! Now in its thundrous third year, FOOM has just featured the Colossal CAPTAIN AMERICA in a plethora of art and articles sure to thrill any dyed-in-the-wool Marvelite! And next issue, because you *demanded* it, the SILVER SURFER flies again! That's right — the results of FOOM'S incredible Living Awards are in, and we have listened! So don't hesitate, Pilgrim! A mere *two dollars* brings you four fun-filled issues of the only fan magazine that can truthfully state that it's produced *by* the best *of* Marveldom *for* the best of Marveldom! And what more could any Faithful Frontfacer ask for?



A BACCHANALIAN BUNCH OF THE BRIGHTEST AND BATTIEST BULLPEN BULLETINS YET!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Here's a tip for all you attentive ones. If travel is your thing and meeting people turns you on, then you've gotta write a book! It's like nothing else in the world! Ever since I wrote ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS my whole life seems to have changed. I'll bet there's not a Marvelite among you who hasn't spied me on some tv or radio talk show in the past few months— or at a book-signing in stores that range from New York's gigantic Macy's to a zillion Hoboken hole-in-the-walls! And the best thing about it is learning that there are more frantic Marvel freaks out there in the real world than you can shake a shinbone at! You go to a strange city— meet a strange, 30-year-old talk-show host— wonder how you'll explain about Marvel to him in the few minutes before the show— and then he breaks you up with some statement like "Hey, bringing Gwen back in that recent ish of Spidey really knocked me out!" It's beautiful!

And, speaking of Spidey, I hope you've been catching his sensational bits on THE ELECTRIC COMPANY tv show. You've really gotta hand it to the Children's Television Workshop. They found a way to make our wondrous wall-crawler an instant hit on tv amongst the bubblegum crowd, while at the same time making his appearances humorous and outrageous enough to lure the older viewers away from their Conans for a while!

Oh, one last thing before I turn you over to the breathless Bullpen. If you're taking an Easter vacation this year, don't forget the giant Marvel-Con coming up in New York's famous Commodore Hotel. Never before has so much Marvel magnificence been assembled 'neath one roof! Never before have you had such a golden opportunity to meet your favorite Marvel madmen! Never before have we prepared so many super-scintillatin' surprises for one and all! So, come Eastertide, if you plan to do some roaming, make sure you roam to the mildly maniacal Marvel-Con here in the heart of fun city— and don't be late, hear? The Hulk hates to be stood up!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! This month, rather than bombarding you with more pulse-pounding plugs for our sensational super-hero merchandise, we're inviting you into both our offices and our hearts for a whimsical tour of the mighty Marvel Bullpen. So take off your shoes, pull your chair a little closer to the fire— and make yourself at home, Pilgrim. Everything we have is yours to share!

ITEM! All good things come in threes, or so they say—and thus it's with pardonable pride that we announce the artful acquisition of three new erudite editorial demons to help rule over the creation of our apparently infinite number of magnificent magazines. So let's say hello to Jim-dandy JOHN DAVID WARNER, who'll be spending his time from now on Assisting Editing our bombastic black-and-white line under the stalwart supervision of Dauntless DON McGREGOR and Marvelous MARV WOLFMAN. Then there's Roguish ROGER SLIFER, late of our peerless Production Department (about whom more later), who has carried his beady-eyed blue pencil all the way across the office with him to insure that each and every mirth-filled mag leaving madcap Marvel is untainted by error or omission. And lastly (but certainly not leastly), congratulate Glintzy GLYNIS WEIN, newly-appointed head of our capricious Coloring Department, who has just recently assumed the reins relinquished by Mirthful MARIE SEVERIN, who'll now be devoting all of her time to making CRAZY MAGAZINE the most wildly-wonderful, way-out humor mag of all! JOHN DAVID, ROGER, and GLYNIS, we salute you—True Believers all!

ITEM! The Wedding bells have hardly stopped ringing, and the rice has been barely digested, but already Boisterous BILL MANTLO has more to be proud of than just his marriage to Kittenish KAREN POCOCK (as if that wasn't reason enough)— for he knows that in the hearts of at least two of moody Manhattan's Senior Citizens, he is more than merely a mild-mannered Production Assistant. He is, in truth, . . . a SUPER-HERO! On his wedding day, paying no heed to the risks involved, brave-hearted BILL cast aside all thoughts of his own safety to race to the rescue of a driverless bus plunging backwards down a hillside towards a rapidly-approaching brick wall. Stopping the vehicle mere inches from impact, BILL calmly returned to his Wedding ceremony (held amidst the emerald splendor of Ft. Tryon Park at the Cloisters) with the profound thanks of two much-relieved elder states-people still ringing in his ears. We're proud of you, BILL, but no matter how much you argue, we still don't think MANTLO-MAN deserves to star in his own mind-boggling mag yet. (But if you wanna get in touch with THE AVENGERS, we hear they're looking for new members. . .)

ITEM! Y'know, our pulse-pounding Production Department, aside from being a bunch of all-around swell folks, actually do a smidgen of work now and then—usually under the withering gaze of Jumbo JOHN VERPOORTEN, Production Boss of what is easily the most disorganized comics company in history. Boisterous BILL MANTLO, star of the previous item, is occasional wielder of the whip, to make sure that the various and sundry letterers, corrections, and paste-up people take no more then their usual five minutes a week for lunch, thus hopefully getting our spell-binding books out on something vaguely akin to schedule. On those rare occasions when one of our artists makes a (gasp) mistake, such as drawing the Hulk with two noses, Malevolent MIKE ESPOSITO is there to rectify the deed (as soon as he can figure out just how many noses ol' Greenskin really does have), while Mike's black-and-white mag counterpart, Diabolical DUFFY VOHLAND keeps plugging away to be sure Gabriel, Devil-Hunter always wears his eye-patch over the proper orb. Making the lettering corrections on all our wondrous works are Merry MORRIE KURAMOTO, Diplomatic DANNY CRESPI, and Humble HOWARD BENDER, alphabetic aces all. Then there's Harried HARRY BLUMFIELD, who pastes the page numbers and those little one-line blurbs that you never read on the bottoms of the pages. Finally, there comes PATY (Cake) GREER, madcap merchandising aide, who has threatened to assassinate the entire editorial staff if we dared to dub her with such a silly nickname. So if next month in this space, you find a blank piece of paper instead of your beloved Bullpen Bulletins, you know who to blame.

ITEM! We're gonna sign off this time with a special coded message to all those FOOM members who have hungrily devoured the CAPTAIN AMERICA code featured in the 8th great issue of our far-famed fan magazine: VDA XNZNOT JX ADBJIO JI N YQNIV IOG YQNAU NIV GCJPO BNO!

Remember, Faithful One—you read it here first!

A CACOPHONOUS COLLECTION OF CAPTIVATING CAPSULE COMMENTS CALCULATED TO CORRAL YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

This is it! The recognition we've all been waiting for! You've read movie reviews, book reviews, record reviews, right? Well, now at last, the nation's top literary critics have begun reviewing comics— or, at least, a book about Marvel Comics! I know you're as anxious to read their verdict as I was, so without any further ado, here's the first batch of notices for the ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS--

Ray Bradbury, in the LOS ANGELES TIMES: "Stan Lee's new volume is the very stuff for you. It is, as he puts it, 'a pictorial tonic to relieve the awesome affliction that threatens us all: the endlessly spreading virus of too much reality in a world that is losing its heroes.' Stan's book is to me a better light bulb. Frivolous? Perhaps. Frightening? Sometimes. With hidden meanings. Stan Lee's comics are better than Lichtenstein can ever hope to be." THE DAILY ENTERPRISE-SUN: "Comicbook heroes are making a comeback. Nowhere is that comeback put together so attractively as in this winner by Stan Lee. It's the best of the comic collections." SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER: "The name Stan Lee is known to millions of comic-book fans all over the world. Marvel Comics sell in dozens of countries at a rate of 75 million a year." PLAYBOY: "Very much fun. People have written graduate papers on just such themes, and for them— and all other true believers— we're heading for the newsstand." CUE: "These are fairy tales for older people. They are fun, like Vonnegut and Tolkien. The last place where you can recapture the fantasy— the wonder—" BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB NEWS: "A snappy new book. One of the good things about Lee's ORIGINS is that for each hero discussed he reproduces the subject's first adventure story along with a more recent episode." WOMAN'S WEAR DAILY: "Lee— might almost be a movie director using the storyboard approach" FAMILY WEEKLY "Stan Lee is in 'big time' publishing." THE PITT NEWS: "This work—is integral to the development of each of the fictional characters created by Marvel. It is a geneology, a bible. The greatest criticism of the book is that it is not enough." BERGEN COUNTY RECORD "ORIGINS holds one's interest— Lee's writing is as colorful as the book's reprints of historic back issues. What also holds the reader is its recounting of the feeling that went into the creation of the superheroes." THE RUTGERS DAILY TARGUM: "The one you've been waiting for. The one book you can't afford to miss." PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN: "Stan Lee, guiding genius of "Marvelmania" in comic books, has included some gloriously marvelmaniacal comics in this sampler. Even adults, especially gallery-goers, should enjoy the artistry of Marvel Comics books; far and away the leaders in their field." CHICAGO NEWS: "True believers, step right up."

And that's only a sample of the hundreds that are pouring in! Who says comics aren't an idea whose time has come? Who says your blushin' Bullpen hasn't achieved the year's most stupendous literary breakthrough? Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Comics? And before some wiseguy shouts "I says!", I'm cuttin' out— it's time to take a troll to tea!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! What's that, Tigers? You say you've been silently scanning those jilting letters pages you've become so avariciously addicted to while reading our titanic titles to these many Marvelous years, and you've yet to find the startling new MARVEL VALUE STAMPS we've been promising to toss at ya for the past few months? Well, don't fret, Fearless Ones, your eagle eyes aren't failing you—it's just that the ever-unpredictable inmates of your batty Marvel Bullpen have decided to go all out as usual in their quest to provide the most royally rapturous recreation possible for True Believers everywhere. When the now-legendary SECOND SERIES of MVSlamps finally assaults your wide-open orbs in just a few short weeks, they will stun you, they will shock you, they will leave you utterly speechless—for in all your years as madcap Marvelites, you will never in your memory have seen the like of what we have in store for you! And remember, even though the concept is so daringly different, you'll still be able to treat yourself to the same glamorous goodies and more when all one hundred startling stamps are at last in your pulse-pounding possession! Truth to tell, we wouldn't do all this if we didn't love ya!

ITEM! Everyone here has heard the name DAMON RUNYON. He's the scintillating author whose singular view of the screwy city called New York has delighted the hearts of millions everywhere, and birthed such world-renowned productions as "Guys and Dolls" and "Pocketful of Miracles." A genius, right? So who'd ever have thought that TONY (The Tiger) ISABELLA, bare-faced youth from Cleveland, would someday move to Fun City and directly into the penthouse apartment once owned by the illustrious Mr. Runyon himself. We won't say that this startling fact has had any sort of adverse effect on the Tigerish One, but we've noticed a disturbing tendency for names like "Sky Masterson" and "Apple Annie" to pop up in Tony's scripts of late. A subtle influence—or perhaps more? (Wow, what a strange idea—the GHOST RIDER scripted by a ghost writer!)

ITEM! Hey, hope you're one of the lucky ones who's been latching onto the minor masterpieces Judo JIM STARLIN has been turning out every sixty days on the all-new, all-improved WARLOCK strip. As far as we can tell, STRANGE TALES fanatics everywhere are flipping their collective corks over the spectacular Mr. Starlin's dynamic drawings (not to mention his sizzling scripting and capricious coloring). In fact, the only discouraging words we've heard at all thus far have come from a gregarious grey gargoyle called The Golem—and we suspect that he might be just a wee bit prejudiced! Also, let's not forget Dynamic DAVE COCKRUM, whose fan dream of a lifetime came true when he was chosen to illustrate the equally-all-new, equally-all-improved adventures of the X-cruciatingly X-citing X-MEN, who are currently cavorting in their brand-new GIANT-SIZE mag! Who says this ain't the Marvel Age of Sensational Second Chances?

ITEM! And just so you don't think we're sitting on our slightly-wilted laurels, we're gonna let you in on a few searing **secrets**! Listen closely now... we're gonna whisper 'cause we don't want the competition to hear the names of our newest stars! They'll be popping up in their own spanking-new features in the next few months—and we want you to be prepared for 'em! So look out for BLOODSTONE—he stalks the shadowed lands WHERE MONSTERS DWELL! And the sinister SCARECROW will be waiting for you in the DEAD OF NIGHT! The mind-boggling MODRED THE MYSTIC will be battling arcane forces in the back of GIANT-SIZE WEREWOLF! And lastly, prepare yourself for the coming of SKULL THE SLAYER, a character with a story-line so powerful, we haven't decided where we're gonna present it just yet. Hang in there, Pilgrim—the best is yet to come. (And if you have a few paltry sheckles left over, you might want to pick up the first pulse-pounding issue of a little item called GIANT-SIZE INVADERS! It features the all-new adventures of CAPTAIN AMERICA and BUCKY, the savage SUB-MARINER, and the Original HUMAN TORCH and TORO, fighting for freedom in the torrid early days of World War Two! It's a concept so off-beat, you're just gonna have to love it!) And on that note, we return you to your regularly-scheduled Marvel mag

A DYNAMIC DISPLAY OF DIZZY DOINGS, DARING DELINEATIONS, AND DAZZLING DESCRIPTIONS DESIGNED TO DISPEL YOUR DESPAIR!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hey, troops, remember the old Classics Comics mags? Remember how everyone loved those comic book versions of the world's greatest stories? Remember what a great help they were with school book reports? Well, ol' Marvel remembers, too. And that's why we're real excited to announce that your bleary-eyed Bullpen has done it again. We're bringing the classics back to life! We're starting a whole new series of 50¢ magazines, a full 48 pages per issue—with no ads! We expect Marvel's new line of classics to be the biggest thing since Aunt May's face lift, so watch for 'em, hear? There'll be more announcements coming your way elsewhere in our mags, so you've no excuse for missing 'em! Meanwhile, I winged my way to Penn State U. a few weeks ago to deliver some culture and erudition in the form of a liltin' lecture, and found the campus plestered with the word "blexcroid." No one would tell me what it meant unless I gave Penn State a plug here in the Soapbox. Well, you know me. I yield to no pressure! I don't have-ta mention Penn State. I'll bet we have enough Believers out there who'll tell me what blexcroid means without me mentioning Penn State. So there ya are, Penn State—I didn't mention you! Nyahh! And now, the announcement you've all been waiting for. At least, some of you have been waiting. Well, at any rate, my editor at Simon & Schuster has been waiting. Next ish, here in this very column, I'll reveal the long-awaited secret of which Marvel masterworks will be featured in the long-awaited sequel to the ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS! No, no, don't get too emotional about it—restrain those tears of joy and gratitude—you should be used to our beneficence by now. Or, as All-Father Odin might say, "The moment of departure hath arrived. Yea, verily, 'tis time to take a troll to lunch!"

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Remember those bygone days when we'd tell titanic tales of how such motion picture greats as FEDERICO FELLINI and ALAIN RESNAIS would make it their policy to pop up at the mighty Marvel offices whenever in New York to amuse your bashful Bullpen with startling stories of how comic books had so greatly influenced their lives and transformed them from cherubic children into some of the world's greatest film directors? Well, Faithful One, those days have not yet passed! Just this week (that's Marvel Standard Time, O Keeper of the Flame, not to be confused with the week when you finally read these wondrous words), GEORGE PAL, producer of such well-remembered and deeply-cherished Science Fiction films as **The Time Machine** and **War of the Worlds**, dropped by 575 Madison Avenue to let us in on the behind-the-scenes scoop of what many say may be his greatest epic—DOC SAVAGE, MAN OF BRONZE! While he was here, Our Pal George got the chance to feast his eyes upon Big JOHN BUSCEMA's pulse-pounding pencils for the fifty-page ektravaganza slated for the first issue of the Bronze Man's brand-new, bombastic black-and-white mag coming your way within weeks. (And just so you don't think our cavortin' color mags are being ignominiously ignored, we'll just casually hint that you should keep a close watch at your local newsstand in the days to come so you won't be one of the unfortunate few to miss picking up our one-shot GIANT-SIZE DOC SAVAGE blockbuster. A word to the wise and all that.) Also, for those of you aching to know more about the man who is about to help make DOC SAVAGE a household word, be sure to catch the intricately in-depth interview with George Pal conducted by Cheerful CHRIS CLAREMONT and Sunny JIM HARMON in the pages of the aforementioned black-and-white blockbuster. 'Tis a pleasure not to be missed!

ITEM! Hey, have you caught the latest masterpiece produced by our own Happy HERB TRIMPE? The Hulking One, anxious to get his talented hands on a war mag ever since the late lamented Phantom Eagle flew his final mission just a few years gone (except, of course, for our way-out World War One Ace's off-beat guest-shot in GHOST RIDER #12, still on sale if you're lucky), leaped at the chance to draw the adventures of John Kowalski, who lives again and dies again in every issue of WAR IS HELL! The only problem that presents is that Cheerful CHRIS CLAREMONT is so awed by Herb's pencilling that he's afraid to cover up any of the art with his captivating captions and wondrous word balloons! Say—would any of you out there be interested in a war mag without sound effects? We didn't think so.

ITEM! And speaking of superb penciliers who are outrageously enthusiastic about their latest art assignments, how about Buffalo BOB BROWN, Daredevil demon, who has just landed the pencilling chores (Gee, wonder why we keep calling these things we'd do for free "chores"?) on MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, thus assuming the honor of drawing bashful, blue-eyed Benjamin J. Grimm on a bi-monthly basis. We've never seen anybody enjoy sketching an overgrown pile of lumpy orange rocks more!

ITEM! But before our riotous writers start getting depressed over the fact we haven't devoted a Bullpen item entirely to them in quite a while, we'd better mention that STEVE (Baby) GERBER, Man-Thing maven, has just taken over the editorial reins of CRAZY magazine from Marvelous MARV WOLFMAN, who also passed Steve two Alka Seltzers and a bottle of aspirin. Good Luck, Steve—you may need it! Marvelous Marv, by the way, will finally put to use all the art training he gained teaching Junior High School, when he takes brush in hand and actually colors the debut issue of his brainchild, SKULL THE SLAYER! On the short side, Dauntless DON McGREGOR will soon be scripting the adventures of one Luke Cage, POWER MAN! Granted, Don's sure excited about the project, but we still think that big iron chain he's started wearing around his waist will really hamper him when softball season rolls around again. (And just so Cheerful CHRIS WHAT'S-HIS-NAME doesn't get a swelled head from being mentioned so many times this month, we'll just whisper that he's the newest scripter of MARVEL PREMIERE's Martial Arts sensation, IRON FIST!) There! If that doesn't get those unruly writers off our backs, we don't know what will!

ITEM! FOOM lives? FOOM lives! That's right, Faithful Ones—contrary to raucous rumor, your very own fabulous fan club is still very much alive and well. For a mere $2.50, you will receive oodles of stunning stick-ons, a magnificent full-color poster, four fantastic issues of FOOM's far-out fan magazine, and a golden membership card entitling you to all rights and privileges Marveldom can manage!

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AN ENDEARING ENSEMBLE OF EDITORIAL ERRATA FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT, EDIFICATION, AND ENLIGHTENMENT!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Yep, it's true—there definitely will be a sequel to the ol' best-selling ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS! That cheering you hear is from your local book store! And, in answer to the thousands of requests (some guy named Hymie Thousands happened to ask), these are the characters that will be featured in our own inimitable and sometimes incomprehensible style: Iron Man! Daredevil! X-Men! Avengers! Captain America! Sub-Mariner! Human Torch! Sgt. Fury! Plus another unexpected sensation whom we're saving as the surprise of the year! The only problem is, we haven't figured out a title for the book yet. Dunno whether to call it MORE ORIGINS, or SON OF ORIGINS, or what? If you've any suggestions, don't be bashful. And if you haven't bought the original ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS yet, better not delay too long. No telling how many sequels will be published, and you won't wanna be the only one in town without a full set! But now it's culture time. Wouldja believe that yours truly set some kinda record recently by speaking at five colleges in as many days! Yep, I've got a hunch that ol' Michigan State U, Augustana, Ferris State, and the University of Wisconsin won't ever be the same, to say nothing of Montreal's George Williams College. The only thing I can't figure out is why, after all this campus-hopping, Spidey hasn't gotten his doctorate yet! Or, in the words of Honest Irv Forbush, "How soon they forget"! And now, I'll leave you with this age-old riddle which has stumped wise men and sages since time immemorial: Who feeds the elephants at Monte Python's flying circus? And while you've guessing, remember—vive la bagatelle!

Excelsior

Stan

ITEM! Hang on to your FOOMbership card, Faithful One, 'cause your blushing Bullpen is about to let you in on the most long-awaited event since Judy Garland took that first fateful step over the rainbow. Almost before you could expect it, your hot-blooded House of Ideas will be unleashing a brand-new, pulse-pounding magazine destined to become one of the biggest and brightest stars in the hit-studded Marvel heavens, our own artful adaptation of one of the greatest children's fantasy series of all time—"THE WIZARD OF OZ"! Everyone here at Mad. Ave. is so proud of our peerless project that we've made sure only the best of the Bullpen will produce it; so plaudits to Rascally ROY THOMAS and Big JOHN BUSCEMA for corralling the most sought-after assignment to come down the pike in ages, thus gaining a chance to prove that brawny, bold barbarians aren't the only wonderment they're more than capable of producing. We can't tell you exactly *when* this Marvel Munchkin Masterwork will be hitting your newsstands, or its size and shape (we don't want the Wicked Witch of the West to find out), but you can bet your ruby slippers that it'll be well worth waiting for! So if you've ever wondered what would happen if the madness of Marvel joined forces with the genius of L. FRANK BAUM, this is your chance to find out! Don't miss it, Marvelite—you know how angry Toto gets!

ITEM! It seems congratulations are in order for the remarkable Mr. Buscema in more ways than one. Not only has he copped the juiciest artistic plum in Marveldom's plum-filled history, but even as we pen these imperishable words, Joltin' John has embarked upon a *new* career—as the head of his very own ART SCHOOL! If you've ever dreamed of learning at the side of one of comicdom's all-time greats, here's your chance! Just keep your eyes glued to our cataclysmic classified ad pages for the next few months to learn all the details, and you may become one of the privileged ones to enroll in John's sensational course! We're counting on Mr. Buscema to start turning out the most talented new artists of all—and *you* could be one of them! 'Nuff Said!

ITEM! While we're on the subject of congratulations, let's hear it for Artful ARCHIE GOODWIN, who's returning to the fold after far too long an absence, to replace Dauntless DON McGREGOR as the erudite Editor of several of Marvel's block-busting black-and-white magazines. Archie will be controlling the direction of such various and sundry items as PLANET OF THE APES, DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU, VAMPIRE TALES, and others. He may even turn out a comics script or two, if he can find a few spare minutes between his editorial chores and his scripting duties on the syndicated SECRET AGENT CORRIGAN newspaper strip. Don't worry about the whereabouts of Dauntless Don, by the way. Mr. McGregor is still very much with us, turning out scripts for the Black Panther in JUNGLE ACTION, Killraven in AMAZING ADVENTURES, and his newest acquisition, LUKE CAGE, POWER MAN, a mag begun, just a few years back, by Artful Archie himself! (There's a note of *irony* in there somewhere, but don't ask *us* what it is!) In the meanwhile, welcome back, Arch—it's good to have you aboard!

ITEM! Pardon us for blushing, but the nominations for the 1974 SHAZAM AWARDS have just been announced by the ACADEMY OF COMIC BOOK ARTS, and mighty Marvel walked away with so many of the various categories that it's almost embarrassing. Just take a gander for yourself—and you'll see what we mean! Best Penciller, Humor Division: DAN DeCARLO, FRANK ROBERGE, MARIE SEVERIN, and GEORGE WILDMAN. Best Inker, Humor Division: RUDY LAPICK, RALPH REESE FRANK ROBERGE, MARIE SEVERIN, and GEORGE WILDMAN. Best Writer, Humor Division: NICK CUTI, STEVE GERBER, JOE GILL, and STEVE SKEATES. Best Penciller, Dramatic Division: JOHN BUSCEMA GENE COLAN, and BERNI WRIGHTSON. Best Inker, Dramatic Division: FRANK GIACOIA, DICK GIORDANO, TOM PALMER, and JOE SINNOTT. Best Writer, Dramatic Division: STEVE GERBER, ARCHIE GOODWIN, and ROY THOMAS. (Seems the Bullpen vertually *swept* the dramatic catagories, don't it?) Best Letterer: JOHN COSTANZA, ANNETTE KAWECKI, GASPAR SALADINO, and ARTIE SIMEK. Best Colorist: MARIE SEVERIN, GLYNIS WEIN, and TATJANA WOOD. Superior Achievement by an Individual: BARRY SMITH, ROY THOMAS, and JIM STARLIN. Best Continuing Feature: CONAN THE BARBARIAN, TOMB OF DRACULA, and MAN-THING. Best Individual Story, "Gotterdammerung," "Night of the Stalker," and "Red Nails," Best Individual Short Story: "Burma Sky," "Cathedral Perilous," and "Jenifer," Best Humor Story: "The Boob Rube Story," "The ECCHorcist," "Kaspar the Dead Baby," and "Police Gory Story." (Sounds like the contents page from an issue of CRAZY magazine!) Outstanding New Talent: PAUL GULACY, AL MILGROM, ANNETTE KAWECKI and CRAIG RUSSELL. Hall of fame: JACK KIRBY, ALEX TOTH, and WALLY WOOD. We'll give you a complete rundown of the wistful winners in just a few months, so keep watchin', hear?

ITEM! A tip of the slightly-battered Marvel bowler to the members of the prestigious PITTSBURGH COMIX CLUB for the rousing reception they gave Powerhouse PAUL GULACY and Guest of Honor, Lively LEN WEIN, at the first annual PITTCON, held the home of the Super Bowl Steelers just a few weeks past. The interest, enthusiasm, and gracious hospitality shown Len and Paul by Blushing BEN PONDEXTER and the rest of the gang will not soon be forgotten. Muchas Gracias, Pittsburgh—and keep those homefires burning!

ITEM! We've got just about enough room left to tell you we've got no more room left for this go-round! See ya in thirty!